



**Fifth Session — Thirty-First Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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30 Elizabeth II

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*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Harry E. Graham  
Speaker*



MG-8048

**VOL. XXIX No. 15A - 2:00 p.m., TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY, 1981**

**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty - First Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

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Name	Constituency	Party
<b>ADAM, A. R. (Pete)</b>	Ste. Rose	NDP
<b>ANDERSON, Bob</b>	Springfield	PC
<b>BANMAN, Hon. Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>BARROW, Tom</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>BLAKE, David</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>BOSTROM, Harvey</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>BOYCE, J. R. (Bud)</b>	Winnipeg Centre	NDP
<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>CHERNIACK, Q.C., Saul</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>CORRIN, Brian</b>	Wellington	NDP
<b>COSENS, Hon. Keith A.</b>	Gimli	PC
<b>COWAN, Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>CRAIK, Hon. Donald W.</b>	Riel	PC
<b>DESJARDINS, Laurent L.</b>	St. Boniface	NDP
<b>DOERN, Russell</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>DOMINO, Len</b>	St. Matthews	PC
<b>DOWNEY, Hon. Jim</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>EINARSON, Henry J.</b>	Rock Lake	PC
<b>ENNS, Hon. Harry J.</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>EVANS, Leonard S.</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>FERGUSON, James R.</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>FILMON, Gary</b>	River Heights	PC
<b>FOX, Peter</b>	Kildonan	NDP
<b>GALBRAITH, Jim</b>	Dauphin	PC
<b>GOURLAY, Hon. Doug</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>GRAHAM, Hon. Harry E.</b>	Birtle-Russell	PC
<b>GREEN, Q.C., Sidney</b>	Inkster	Ind
<b>HANUSCHAK, Ben</b>	Burrows	NDP
<b>HYDE, Lloyd G.</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>JENKINS, William</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>JOHNSTON, Hon. J. Frank</b>	Sturgeon Creek	PC
<b>JORGENSEN, Hon. Warner H.</b>	Morris	PC
<b>KOVNATS, Abe</b>	Radisson	PC
<b>LYON, Hon. Sterling R.</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>MacMASTER, Hon. Ken</b>	Thompson	PC
<b>MALINOWSKI, Donald</b>	Point Douglas	NDP
<b>McBRYDE, Ronald</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>McGILL, Hon. Edward</b>	Brandon West	PC
<b>McGREGOR, Morris</b>	Virdeu	PC
<b>McKENZIE, J. Wally</b>	Roblin	PC
<b>MERCIER, Q.C., Hon. Gerald W. J.</b>	Osborne	PC
<b>MILLER, Saul A.</b>	Seven Oaks	NDP
<b>MINAKER, Hon. George</b>	St. James	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Hon. Donald</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PARASIUK, Wilson</b>	Transcona	NDP
<b>PAWLEY, Q.C., Howard</b>	Selkirk	NDP
<b>PRICE, Hon. Norma</b>	Assiniboia	PC
<b>RANSOM, Hon. Brian</b>	Souris-Killarney	PC
<b>SCHROEDER, Vic</b>	Rossmere	NDP
<b>SHERMAN, Hon. L. R. (Bud)</b>	Fort Garry	PC
<b>STEEN, Warren</b>	Crescentwood	PC
<b>URUSKI, Billie</b>	St. George	NDP
<b>USKIW, Samuel</b>	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
<b>WALDING, D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP
<b>WESTBURY, June</b>	Fort Rouge	Lib
<b>WILSON, Robert G.</b>	Wolseley	Ind

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA**  
**Tuesday, 10 February, 1981**

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell):** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY  
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Radisson.

**MR. ABE KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report same and ask leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Dauphin, report of Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS  
AND TABLING OF REPORTS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

**HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris):** Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the Annual Report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1980.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. KEN. MacMASTER (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Pension Commission of Manitoba for the period January 1, 1980 to October 31, 1980.

I would also like to table the 63rd Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission for the year ending December 31, 1980.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister of Agriculture advise whether or not Wells Land and Cattle Company has been acquiring sizable tracts of Manitoba farmland during the past year?

**HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur):** I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, there was some background discussion over there and I didn't hear the member. I wonder if he'd repeat the question.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister of Agriculture advise whether or not Wells Land and Cattle Company has

been acquiring large tracts of Manitoba farmlands during the past calendar year?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have no specific information or knowledge of any such company buying land but basically we live in a free province and I guess if they are residents of Canada or landed immigrants that they have the right to purchase such land but I am not aware of the specific situation he refers to.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, since it has been reported that Wells Land and Cattle Company has been purchasing large tracts of Manitoba lands due to the fact that it has sold many of its operations in Saskatchewan due to the tightening up by the Saskatchewan government of legislation pertaining to non-resident corporations engaged in agriculture, can the Minister indeed advise whether or not in view of the loosening provisions which permitted the establishment of paper corporations by his government, as a result of 1978 legislation, that indeed it is so, that as a result of the Saskatchewan tightening up of their legislation that this has opened up the way for non-resident corporations such as this to acquire large tracts of land in Manitoba as we are indeed being advised?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, if the individual was a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant who is purchasing land we believe that they should have the right to purchase land. We believe in the right to hold property something that the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party do not believe in in this country. That's a right that we have and I don't think that the people should have it removed from them.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't expect that we would be preached to in such an emotional outburst as we have just been entertained to by the Minister of Agriculture. The question dealt not with the issue of freedom for individuals, farmers, residents, to acquire farmlands. The question dealt with non-resident corporate farm entities be engaged in agriculture in the Province of Manitoba, a situation which the Minister of Agriculture had left an impression that he had not loosened up the legislation only a month ago in this House dealing with the acquisition of farmlands by foreign interests.

**MR. DOWNEY:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition should identify the specific lands that he is concerned about as well as trying to tell us the people who are buying it are not Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who I believe built this country, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that it's in the best interests of the agriculture community to restrict the development of Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. We are presently dealing with the Department of Agriculture Estimates and I would suggest that this debate carry on in the Department of Agriculture Estimates rather than question period.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, in view of this information, would the Minister advise whether or not he is presently reviewing his legislation relating that legislation to the Saskatchewan legislation in order to ascertain whether or not his legislation should be tightened up, more in line with that legislation which was just proclaimed a few months ago in Saskatchewan?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition is quite aware, we have indicated in our Throne Speech that we are proposing changes that will in fact protect the farm community in Manitoba and also protect the rights of Canadians in being able to obtain land. But here is the Leader of the Opposition, on one hand, they are saying that the people are all leaving the Province of Manitoba and when people want to come to Manitoba they want to restrict them, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order please. Order please. ORDER PLEASE. I realize that there is a desire to get to Estimates as quickly as possible so this matter can be discussed; however, we do have a 40-minute time period for questions.

The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

**MR. SAUL CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, may I address the Minister of Government Services and tell him that this is a dangerous weapon he has put into our hands, at least, self destructive. I would like to ask him, Mr. Speaker, whether it is the view of his government that the news media, particularly the large dailies of the CPS, are agents in the destruction of the free enterprise system.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, one is going to have to search that one for the barbs that I'm sure are contained therein.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, may I assist the Honourable Minister in being able to respond to my question by referring him to some article that appears in the *Scratching River Post* wherein he is quoted and may I read that, Mr. Speaker, "Honourable Jorgenson sees the news media, particularly the large dailies and the CBC as being agents in the destruction of the free enterprise system."

**MR. JORGENSEN:** I don't think that it's proper for a question of that nature to be asked in this Chamber.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, then in view of the absence of the First Minister and the Deputy Premier, no reason why we I shouldn't ask the same Minister of Government Services, whether he can inform us if the appointment of six special public relations co-ordinators in sensitive government departments as a result of the government's conclusions that they can't rely anymore on

newspapers and news reporters to get across the message of government which appears to be the statement of Mr. Jim Armit, the co-ordinator of communications for the Cabinet.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss to understand why that question is directed to me because I don't see that it has anything to do with my department.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, it's just for clarification. I would like to know if any Minister of the government in the absence of the Premier or the Deputy Premier, other than the Honourable Minister of Government Services who doesn't know why the question is directed to him, if any of the Ministers who have such communicators and co-ordinators in their own departments to respond as to whether or not they are using these people in a way as described by Mr. Armit to take care of the problem created by the fact that, in Mr. Armit's opinion, you can't rely any more on newspapers and news reporters to get across your message. So since I would assume that any of the Ministers on the front bench may well be employers of one of these six co-ordinators that I would then have to ask if they would wish to respond to this question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, I think one of the particular words that was used was the wrong one and I don't know if the Member for St. Johns has that word in the article. Did he say "appointed"? It's very important, Mr. Speaker, that we clarify if — I think the Member for St. Johns said that Mr. Armit was quoted as saying that six people had been appointed. There has been none appointed. As Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission I can that there are none to my knowledge that have been appointed to positions. What has taken place, when positions have been posted, a variety of people have bid on those positions which is the right of people to do so and this particular government and I think any other government in the country — unless there is some that I'm not aware of — do not have a ban on the news media, people for bidding on government jobs. It just so happens that a lot of them are very qualified and fell into the position, and so qualified, bid on it and got the job.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** On the point which was raised by the Honourable Minister of Labour asking whether the word "appointed" was correct, I would have to say to him the word "appointed" does not appear in this article. The word "hired" appears and the statement is not quoted but says six former news media people have been hired and between \$28,000 to \$32,000 a year as special public relations co-ordinators in sensitive government departments. I'm wondering without meaning to encroach on the question period, whether the Minister of Labour is the employer of one of those six highly paid special public relations co-ordinators.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, the jobs in question that I think the member is referring to and the gentleman that allegedly made those statements referred to were all jobs that were bulletined. Again, I

emphasize this government does not have a ban on people working for newspapers today, and in the past or in the future, we don't bar them from bidding on our bulletin jobs.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. SIDNEY GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General tell me whether it is a fact that the Government of Manitoba and its lawyers are attempting to have a police investigation essentially, a police investigation commenced by Switzerland, conducted in the Province of Manitoba in a way in which no investigation could be conducted in our own province, that is, by calling witnesses, subpoenaing them to give evidence in support of a simple investigation. Perhaps the word simple is not appropriate to this particular case but nevertheless, is it a fact that we are trying to have people subpoenaed and give evidence before a commissioner for what is essentially an investigative procedure which would not be permitted under our own investigative procedures?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, the government and government lawyers that is employed on staff by the department are not involved in the proceedings to which the Member for Inkster refers. As he well knows the special prosecutor, Mr. McGregor, hired by the previous government with respect to this matter is the lawyer in charge of these matters on the criminal side and as I understand it he has offered to assist the Swiss authorities in their request to take evidence in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I think there is perhaps some misunderstanding as to the type of process that is involved here as compared to Switzerland. I understand that there has been a decision of the Court of Appeal with respect to the validity of those proceedings in Manitoba.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Attorney-General whether it is not a fact that four lawyers, gowned, representing the Province of Manitoba and paid for by the people of this province, namely Mr. Chapman, Mr. McGregor, Mr. Teskey, and Mr. Goodman of his department, were yesterday involved in a proceeding which Mr. Justice Hamilton subsequently found against us whereby we were trying to have people subpoenaed and give evidence under oath for an investigation? Is it not also a fact that if the RCMP were conducting an investigation into criminal acts on the part of citizens in the Province of Manitoba no such procedure would be available nor would the Attorney-General countenance it.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, again let me say through you, Sir, to the Member for Inkster, the criminal proceedings with respect to this matter have, I believe, under the previous government and have under our government, been virtually in the complete discretion of the special prosecutor hired by the previous government to handle these matters. I admit, Sir, that there is a procedure being used in this case from the viewpoint of the Swiss authorities.

It is not a procedure that would be followed in similar proceedings in Manitoba or in Canada. The court has ruled on that, Mr. Speaker, and not allowed it and justifiably so.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct any impression that any counsel which I have had to do with, as a member of government, was operating at complete discretion. Are not the Province of Manitoba the principals, are not the Province of Manitoba the persons to whom these solicitors report and is not the Attorney-General the person who ultimately accepts responsibility for what is done? If so, does he choose to leave a matter of this kind solely at the discretion of counsel without obtaining instructions from his principal?

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, this procedure has been brought forward by Mr. McGregor at the request of the Swiss authorities, an investigation which has been ongoing for some time, was reviewed by as I understand it, with staff from my department. The application was made, the application was turned down on appeal and that's where the matter stands.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Johns on a matter of privilege.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, I'm very much concerned with the response given by the Honourable Attorney-General and I raised this because I am one of the persons that has been asked to attend and be examined. I want to inform the Honourable Attorney-General that I assume that whatever was being done by the special prosecutor who is employed by his government is being done with his concurrence. I don't want to read a lengthy letter, Mr. Speaker, but the first sentence of the letter I received from this person whom I respect as a lawyer says, "As you are probably aware, the writer is a special prosecutor for the Manitoba Government regarding certain charges arising out of the construction of financing of the pulp and paper project at The Pas." He then goes on to refer to this Swiss application and says that they would like to have certain people volunteer to give evidence. I'm not reading that portion but he does say, "I would hope that I would be able to get your consent to appear during that period of time in order that you might subject yourself to interrogation by Drs. Hirt and/or Bederman."

Now the point I'm making as a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, is during the time when I believe that members of the Legislature can say that they are in session and therefore not available for court proceedings, I have agreed to appear voluntarily in the expectation that the Honourable the Attorney-General, as the chief law officer of this province, is being represented by the person who is a special prosecutor and whatever he is doing is with the concurrence and authority of the Attorney-General. I might say that's the only basis on which I voluntarily agreed to appear, other than that I would have certainly had the right to question whether or not I should do something like that. So I would ask the Honourable the Attorney-General to clarify his role in this proceeding.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order please. The honourable member has asked a question of the

Attorney-General but I believe that he rose in his place on a matter of privilege and I would like to know exactly what the point of privilege that the member is trying to raise.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, I would have to refer to the section of the Act but I believe that a member of the Legislative Assembly is not required to appear in court on proceedings during a session. On that basis I could have relied on the law which I believe I've stated correctly, to say I'm busy with the proceedings of government and the involvement that every MLA has in the Legislature. It was only because I assumed that the Honourable the Attorney-General was party to the request that I appear during a session and voluntarily that I agreed to appear because I thought I would be assisting the government in its efforts, whatever they are, in connection with this prosecution. So I rise as a member of the Legislature to ask on a matter of privilege whether or not I am correct in assuming that by agreeing to appear as I did voluntarily that I was doing so in compliance with an indirect but an implied request of the Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, and it's my understanding that most if not all of the persons to be interviewed voluntarily agreed to be interviewed by the Commission in the hopes as I understand it, of assisting the special prosecutor and the Swiss authorities in the investigation of this matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose one further question because I don't wish to leave any impression that there is any non-desire to assist people. Is it not open to the special prosecutors, the investigators, to come to Manitoba and do exactly what the Royal Committee at the Mounted Police would do, that is, go to the Member for St. Johns, go to if need be the Governor-General or to myself or anybody else, and ask them questions and if these people then become difficult, I assume that there are courses of proceedings that would flow from them. But the Attorney-General's counsel and I say four lawyers, Mr. Speaker. I was asked in the House when I was on that side of the House, who are the lawyers for the MDC and I said that we have one special counsel, his name is Freedman. Apart from that, three-quarters of the lawyers in the Province of Manitoba make their living out of the MDC. We had four lawyers, Mr. Speaker, attending this hearing. I repeat: Mr. Chapman, Mr. McGregor, Mr. Teskey, Mr. Goodman, to deal with a motion of which they subsequently did not succeed with, to have an investigation under oath of an investigation, a procedure which would not be available to the RCMP if they were conducting an investigation in this province.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I think the difficulty in this matter arises because of Swiss proceedings, not because of Manitoba proceedings. I think the Member for Inkster is quite right, that if the Manitoba Government wished to investigate a matter in Manitoba it would simply go out and attempt to interview the witnesses voluntarily. I think the

difficulty in this case arises as a result of the Swiss procedures and that is why the procedure that was followed was followed.

I want to undertake, Mr. Speaker, to review as a result of the most recent appeal proceedings the status of this matter with the special prosecutor, Mr. McGregor, and report back to the Member for Inkster and the Member for St. Johns and other members of the House as to how the investigation will be completed in Canada.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. HENRY J. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. My question relates to legislation, I'm given to understand, Mr. Speaker, that was passed in the Province of Saskatchewan by the Saskatchewan Government and it has regards to farm machine companies that manufacture equipment for the purposes of farmers to produce crops in this country. I'm wondering if the Minister could give us briefly information as regards to the legislation whereby farm machine companies if they want to continue business have to have their depots established in the Province of Saskatchewan.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Order please, the Honourable Member of St. George on a point of order.

**MR. BILLIE URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The point that I'm raising is that question, this debate, took place yesterday afternoon in this very House and the point that you have raised earlier, Sir, is that points of this nature could be best dealt with in the Estimates process. The Member for Rock Lake posed this question, this discussion yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. To the Honourable Member for St. George may I point out that the Chair is not privy to the information that is conveyed in Committee and the question at this particular time seems to be a question seeking information.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

The Honourable Member for St. Vital on a point of order.

**MR. D. JAMES WALDING:** Mr. Speaker, I raise the point of order as to whether it is a proper question, direct to a question to a Minister in Manitoba about something that is within the purview of a Minister in another province. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, it's not in order.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I've allowed the question to stand.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, in responding to the question for the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, I appreciate the sensitivity of the members opposite on such issues. I would first of all like to say that I

did not speak directly on this issue in Committee and the answer to the question is, Mr. Speaker, is that there is provincial legislation in Saskatchewan that tells the farm machinery company if they're distributing in that province that they have to have a supply depot in that province. The company known as John Deere were forced to move from Winnipeg with their central office to Regina. At this particular time International Company have some pressure being put on them to move from Winnipeg to Regina. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, we protest that kind of provincial legislation, Mr. Speaker, that does nothing more than disunite Canada. I am a strong believer in a united Canada and when provincial governments

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The Honourable Minister will have an opportunity during Estimates to make that kind of speech. He has provided the information and I hope that the answers to questions are short and to the point.

The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I pose a supplementary question on this very same matter which I think, Mr. Speaker, I speak on behalf of farmers of Manitoba. I'm wondering if the Minister of Agriculture could indicate to this House, in particular to my fellow members opposite who seem to be so sensitive about this matter, what is going to be the effect to the farmers of Manitoba?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. If the honourable members would just allow the member to ask his question, I would be able to then ascertain whether or not it is in order. But when members keep constantly hollering I find it very difficult to hear what is going on.

The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your assistance on this matter. I would like to know if the Minister of Agriculture could very briefly inform the members of this House, and particularly the farmers of Manitoba, what that legislation in Saskatchewan may have as an effect economically on the farmers of this province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. May I suggest that that question is more properly a question for Estimates and should be dealt with at that time.

The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

**MR. VIC SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Could he advise as to whether he received any notice under Section 35 of The Employment Standards Act from Eaton's with respect to their recent layoffs and, if so, was that an 8-week notice, a 12-week, or a 16-week notice?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, I can get the precise details for the Member for Rossmere. The first notice, with the first group, I'm guessing, it was in the 20s or the 30s, there was not required notice. The second group, we did receive notice and I just can't recall whether it was an 8-week or a 16-week. I can get that information for the member.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that it appears that a substantial number of employees have been laid off at Eaton's and possibly there have been more than 100 since the beginning of 1981 in small groups, in stages, has the Minister instructed his staff to investigate to determine whether The Employment Standards Act has in fact been met, the standards of that Act have been met with respect to each employee who has been laid off?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, I don't recall, as I said, the exact number or the notice but I do recall that the appropriate notification was received. Eaton's has laid off, or are in a process of laying off a good number of people. It's my understanding, and I've asked for the figures for this House and I think the Member for Rossmere would be interested in the number of jobs that have been created because of the openings of other stores by that particular company and shopping malls that they are involved in, so we can truly see what the balance in employment of Eaton's in the Province of Manitoba is.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rossmere with a final supplementary.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it might be interesting to know exactly how many jobs Eaton's has provided in 1981 as opposed to the number of layoffs. But in view of the fact that it appears that Eaton's is violating the spirit, if not the actual letter of the Act, and I would refer the Minister to Section 35.1(4) of the Act indicating that a notice is to be posted inside the place of employment for the appropriate time and it appears that has not been done, in view of the fact that none of those items of the Act have been complied with, and especially the spirit of the Act, has the Minister looked at the possibility of amending the Act to strengthen it so that employers must in fact be bound by it?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, I can certainly find out whether in fact appropriate notices were posted. I'm not just sure what the Member for Rossmere means when he said that leads into, and leaves the innuendoes that in fact Eaton's were not complying with the Act, and then ends up his statement relating it to a question that maybe it was the spirit of the Act. I assure him I will find out whether they abided by the terms and conditions of the legislation that's in force in Manitoba and I can get that precisely for him.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. RUSSELL DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I intended to direct a question to the Premier or the Deputy Premier but I therefore direct it to the Acting Deputy Premier. I would like to know whether it will be a regular feature of this Legislature that the First Minister of this province will be away one or two days each week?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please. May I point out to the honourable member that questions in this House should be of a serious nature and not

frivolous. If the honourable member is serious in his question I will allow it to stand.

**MR. DOERN:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think it is a serious matter that the First Minister of this Legislature is spending a great deal of time out of the province, in other provinces, and in foreign countries and I object to his behaviour in that regard. This is a serious question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Acting Premier.

**HON. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the question of the Member for Elmwood, I presume that he is placing this in a serious way to this House. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Elmwood must appreciate that the matters which occupy the Premier of this province, today and yesterday, are matters of great seriousness and of great importance to the people of Manitoba and to the people of Canada. Mr. Speaker, surely the Member for Elmwood, who is elected as a responsible member of this Assembly, does appreciate the debate and the argument which is going on now which very directly affects the lives of every citizen of our country.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Acting Deputy Minister whether this serious business that requires the First Minister to be out of the province is the real reason for the largest Cabinet in Manitoba history, some 18 members, never before seen in this House. So heavy, indeed, Mr. Speaker, that it spilled over into the third row and I'd like to know whether it is because of the urgency of this issue that your administration has appointed the largest Cabinet in Manitoba history to allow several absentees each and every day, whether on business or on monkey business.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. I have to rule the question out of order on the fact that it is facetious.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MRS. JUNE WESTBURY:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs. I wonder if he would tell the House whether he has had any recent meetings with the official delegation of the City of Winnipeg or if any are coming up in the near future.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Yes, to both questions, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Well then, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would advise us whether he has already, or whether he proposes to insist to the City that the Provincial Government, being a financial partner in the administration of the City, whether he would insist that city-owned recreational facilities be made available to males and females equally and participation in activities in those facilities be based on ability to qualify as athletes rather than on the sex of the individual?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Fort Rouge is referring, as I think she is, to the incident

involving three female hockey players in the City of Winnipeg, I can advise her that I met yesterday morning with the President of the Greater Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association to attempt to discuss with him the possibility of the three girls involved at least having the opportunity to complete the hockey season with the teams for which they have been playing this year. Mr. Speaker, the president advised me and showed to me the rules of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association which I would suspect have being amended in recent years to refer to every male person rather than any player and he told me that he has no discretion, by virtue of the CAHA regulations, to allow the girls to complete the present hockey season which I think, Mr. Speaker, is very unfortunate.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Well I'm really gratified that the Minister is attempting to intervene in this and I wonder if he would then perhaps accept the suggestion that we should prevail upon the city not to allow the use of city-owned facilities when the operators, the officials of the association, are in violation of our own Human Rights Act and the decent instincts of the people of Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day.  
The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think with respect to the use of facilities that is a question that will have to be determined by the City of Winnipeg. With respect to the comment on the Human Rights Commission jurisdiction, they have examined the precedent apparently that was established in Ontario some years ago where the courts ruled that the Human Rights Commission did not have jurisdiction and it would appear under the legislation that the Human Rights Commission does not have jurisdiction. I can say however, Mr. Speaker, that they are in the process of corresponding with various sporting associations in the Province of Manitoba to attempt to elicit their views on this subject matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time for question period has expired. We'll proceed with orders of the day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture and the Honourable Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden):** I call the Committee to order. We are on Resolution 49, Page 44. 2.(c)(1) — the Member for Burrows.

**MR. BEN HANUSCHAK:** You will recall that last year the Minister was quite proud of opening an export office in Mexico. In fact I believe that he went down there for the opening of it. Could he brief the committee on his success or failure with the operation of that office. Now that it's been in operation for one year I think that the members of the committee would be interested in knowing whether the operation of that export office in Mexico city is paying dividends or not.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**HON. J. FRANKLIN JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** The office in Mexico has been accepted by the businessmen of Manitoba generally as a step in the right direction for their benefit and 35 Manitoba companies have used the office since the opening in May 1980. A market study plan in the northwest area of Mexico was undertaken in May and June of 1980 on behalf of the agricultural equipment industry in Manitoba. The results of the study were provided to 26 Manitoba companies. A sales mission with four participants from the agricultural equipment industry was organized in September 1980 to visit and identify buying companies in northwest Mexico for agricultural equipment. The mission resulted in a series of negotiations being undertaken with Manitoba firms and sales contracts are in process. One agricultural firm is demonstrating its equipment in the agricultural community in northwest Mexico. Eleven companies visited Mexico individually for sales negotiations and these are in various stages of development.

In December 1980 a seminar on trading opportunities with Mexico was held in Winnipeg with attendance of 105 persons. The seminar was addressed by the Canadian Ambassador to Mexico and the Mexican Ambassador to Canada, along with government officials and businessmen from Manitoba and Mexico.

I might also report that the Federal Government is very enthusiastic about what we are doing in Mexico. We have had representation that the Mexican-Canadian Businessmen's Association. The Federal Government announcements on the meetings with the Federal Ministers and the President of Mexico are encouraging trade between Mexico and all parts of Canada and are very happy that we have an office down there with a person working in Mexico on behalf of Manitoba manufacturers with the hope of the Manitoba manufacturers making sales there.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** How many staff do we have in Mexico?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Just still two people. We have a receptionist. The girl that we had last year left us and we have another receptionist now, and Mr. Gonzalo, our analyst, is still a representative of us down there.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I was looking at the Annual Report for the year ending 1980. Could the Minister just refresh our memory when the Mexican office opened.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** It was in May 1980. I'm informed it was the 7th of May.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Now that raises an interesting question because the Minister's report for the year ending March 31st, 1980 shows a \$5,000 salary item for the Mexico, whatever he calls that office. To help the Minister, page 33.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I don't need any help from you, we'll find it.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I was just being kind.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** We'll find that information for you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** It would appear then, Mr. Chairman, that The Manitoba Trade and Tourism Office in Mexico City has been in operation for a longer period of time than the Minister has indicated and listening to the Minister's review of their operations it seems to the Committee that no Manitoba manufacturer has come back with an order in his pocket as yet resulting from the operations of this office, which you know as of a year ago the cost of its operations are \$22,000 and now he has two people of staff full-time. I don't know what rate of pay he pays them in Mexico, whether he pays them at the Canadian rates of pay or Mexican.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the official opening was May 7th and furnishings of office startup costs were \$9,286, bank charges and transfer fees \$1,599.27, rent \$520 previous to March 31st, 1980, salaries \$5,227.27, travel \$5,575.50 for a total of \$22,208.84 as the startup cost for the office which was started up in May.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** So these were expenses incurred prior to the opening, is that correct?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The office had an official opening in May. The office was opened . . .

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I'm not concerned about when the Minister went down for his cocktail party.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, on that issue, if that's the kind of question I'm going to have I refuse to answer them.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, my question to the Minister is and the Minister may refuse to answer it if he wishes; my question is, are these two expense items, the \$5,000-plus salary item and the \$5,500-plus dollar expense item, are these costs incurred prior to the — I'm not concerned about his official opening, prior to the opening of the Mexico office for business?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Ornelas' salary costs were incurred prior to the — well, the official opening, if you want to call it that, but his costs were incurred beginning in January of 1980 and at that time he started to put the office together, buy the furniture, find office space, etc., and there were costs incurred in 1980, yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Fort Rouge, I believe is next.

**MRS. JUNE WESTBURY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, on the Mexican office. We don't have any quarrel with the Minister's stressing of the fact that we need to establish ties with Third World countries, but my Party would like to get some answers on the Provincial Trade and Tourism Office in Mexico city. And we would like to know what specific progress has been made in the terms of developing markets, Mr. Chair, for Manitoba business and tourism, what markets have — give us some names and figures. Who has benefitted from this, apart from the nice little convention-type happiness things that have been going on with meetings here and there and travelling back and forth. Give us some names of some firms that have benefitted please and how much business in dollar terms has been generated by the office and has the ratio of imports versus exports between Manitoba and Mexico changed at all.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** We can supply you with the names of the firms. I mentioned there were 35 companies have used the office in Mexico, and I mentioned there was a sales mission with four participants went down and they used the office. Out of the office there was a market study supervised for Mexico. There were 11 individual company visits and then of course we had the Mexican seminar here in Manitoba.

The office has, I can name one company who have made sales through the Mexican office, Washtronics. We'll get you his phone number too.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Fort Rouge. Is the Member for Fort Rouge finished?

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Were the sales completely negotiated from beginning to end after the office opened or was that already initiated before the office was opened?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Washtronics have been selling in Mexico, I believe since before the office opened. As a matter of fact they hadn't sold at that time, they have negotiated since the office opened, working with Mr. Ornelas, using the Mexican office, and I have had phone calls from him saying how pleased he was with the co-operation he received when he was in Mexico City.

Co-op Implements have used the office extensively and they have, I'm told, made sales. Presently the people from Chicken Delight, I know, were just down there and used the office extensively, in fact the invitation is extended to every businessman to use that office. Whether they make a sale or not they use that office. They interview people there. They use it as their base while they are operating in Mexico City and also they have, Mr. Ornelas to assist them to put them together with people in Mexico.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Well I think that's very nice that they use the office. I would take that for granted. I don't think that's a matter the Minister should take a lot of credit for. Could he give us the figures on the sales for Washtronics and Co-op Implements in the year before the office was opened and in 1980 — 1979 as opposed to 1980?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'll have to ask — we'll contact the companies for those figures.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** You don't have the figures?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The companies don't have to give us their figures.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** I thought that in view of the fact we have established this office, I thought that the Minister would be obtaining the figures from the companies in order to justify the fact that he is keeping the office going and the budget of \$56,000 which was projected for the office. Could I ask him how much business in dollar terms? Does he have any dollar figure at all for the business that's being generated by or through this office?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** We would have to investigate that with the companies that have worked there and ask them if they would be willing to give us figures of sales that they have made in Mexico since the opening of the office.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** I would think, Sir, that . . .

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, let me add this. Manutrade is not their salesman. They do not sell the products through Manutrade. They sell the products, if they sell any, directly from the company to the purchaser. The government has nothing to do with the sales. We put the people together with people that are prospects to do business.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Mr. Chair, we are not all totally naive. I think we understand that. I would think, Mr. Chair, that these organizations being good corporate citizens and presumably wanting the office to remain in existence would be happy to supply the government with any corroborative figures that would enable the government to justify keeping the office in existence. So perhaps before we come to the Minister's Salary, he would be kind enough to provide those figures to the committee. Can he tell us in view of the fact that it's public knowledge the ratio of exports and imports, whether there has been any, as I asked before, whether there has been any change in those figures at all; whether they have shifted.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Chairman was just asking me something. I've got the part of the question where you requested that we contact the companies regarding sales. We will endeavour to do that. I can't guarantee it. The companies can give us any information that they want or not want to.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Has the ratio of imports versus exports between Manitoba and Mexico shifted at all or shifted significantly?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Manitoba exports to Mexico in 1980 were 4,702,000, that's January to September of 1980; January to September of 1979 was 1,927,000; January to September, 1978, was 2,265,000.00.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** What were the imports, Mexico to Manitoba, please, for the same period?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The imports for January to September of 1980 were 4,328,000; January to September, 1979, 5,094,000; January to September, 1978, 4,539,000.00.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Mr. Chair, when do you think that we can have the figure for the entire year of 1980? What ratio? Is that not the annual year in which you compute these things?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** This is the very latest information we've received and it probably would be, according to my official, about two months, he says, before the final figures have come out.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Mr. Speaker, given that the projected budget was 56,000 and there were two persons employed, the rent was \$500.00. There was some questions from the Manitoba Trading Corporation Auditor's Report that I would like to pursue. Under Exhibit A, there's an item, Advance to Employee re Manitoba Trade and Tourism Office. Would the Minister explain this amount of \$8,000-odd, please?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'll take that as notice and get the explanation for tonight.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Note 3, to the financial statements indicates that the rent amounted to \$520.40, as it matched the 31st, 1980. Does that indicate that the Mexican office became operational on March 1, 1980? If that is so, how are the other items in Note 3 accounted for; Salaries shown as amounting to 5,227 and Travel, 5,575? Are these also for one-month period? How can that be rationalized?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, I thought I just answered it earlier. Mr. Ornelas was on staff with the Manitoba Government in January and during that time he made the arrangements for the office furnishings, etc. and made the arrangements for the office before that actually, and he started to occupy the office on March 1, 1980; it was officially opened on May 7th.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** So that the two figures that are over \$5,000, they are not for a one-month period, those are for a three-month period.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** That is correct.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Thank you.

My final question on this is, how many businessmen have utilized the services provided by the office. You've mentioned two firms that have completed sales. How many firms actually have used the office for their negotiations?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I have stated three times today that 35 Manitoba companies have used the office. I'm not aware of how many people that each company took with them.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Has the government helped to defray travel or any other expenses of these firms travelling to Mexico apart from enabling them to use the office? Have we subsidized their travel or any other expenses?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The agricultural people on the agricultural program, I mentioned here that the sales mission of four participants from Agriculture Equipment Industry was organized in September 1980 to visit buying companies in north-west Mexico

for agriculture equipment. They were assisted through the Enterprise Manitoba Program.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** That was four individuals?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Four participants.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** All right, thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate to us the exact role or describe the role and function of the staff that he has in Mexico City. He did indicate that there were 35 business firms which used the facilities provided by him for them in Mexico, which is one firm every ten or eleven days or so. So what does this staff do in between times? In other words, is their only role and function just to unlock the door and turn on the lights or are they also expected to work within the country and seek out export markets for Manitoba industry? That's question No. 1.

Question No. 2, do they work beyond the boundaries of the country of Mexico because you will note, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister had indicated in his report that this staff is expected, the staff of two is expected to cover quite a wide territory including Central America and South America? Perhaps he could advise us on their operations outside of Mexico in Central and South America.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** We have not moved into Central America as yet. We have concentrated our efforts in the Mexico office in Mexico.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** You have not moved into Central America. Have you moved into South America?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** No.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Is it the Minister's intention to move into Central and South America this year?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** No, we may investigate South America, but as far as making a major effort in South America, that's not intended for this year.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Oh, so this is another flim-flam because the Minister says that the office will also cover the Central and South American markets. He doesn't say that well, we may, we may not, we're going to investigate but we were not sure. The Minister is quite definite and specific that the office will also cover Central and South American markets. Now he's changing his mind.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** It will cover Central and South American markets if and when we move into it. It will be covered from Mexico.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Oh, I see. The Minister's intentions are really quite different from those stated within his report.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Not necessarily, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Brandon East.

**MR. LEONARD S. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, as we should understand in the Committee, the Federal

Government of Canada does have a Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City. This is a problem I think this country faces in its trade relationships with other countries; that is, the competition by the provinces for trade in other parts of the world. I think this is unfortunate that we have some provinces, particularly Quebec and Ontario, and to the lesser extent, Alberta, virtually competing with the Federal Government by putting up trade offices in various centres of the world, virtually in competition with the Federal Trade Commissioners Service. My experience is that we have an excellent Federal Trade Commissioners Service and they are quite willing to respond to the provinces upon request.

I would lament the fact, and I do lament the fact, that Canadian provinces have seen fit to go out and to represent their own interests over, above and beyond the interest presumably to be represented by the Federal Trade Commissioner in that city or in that country. I think it must be very confusing to people in these other countries to see not one, but several, representatives of trade interests, business interests, from Canada. Manitoba has not been guilty of this up until I suppose now in a sense that we have this office. Admittedly it is a very modest operation. Let's face it, it's a very modest operation and I'm sure the intentions are good on the part of the Minister of the department. I don't question the motives, but I do wonder whether really we are substantially assisting our Manitoba businessmen. I believe that the Manitoba business people who do have interests in Mexico could very well be served by the Canadian Trade Office there. The Trade Commissioner and his staff I know are willing, able and have in the past assisted Manitoba businessmen. I'm wondering, specifically, have we now attracted away the Manitoba businessmen from the Canadian Trade Office in Mexico City. Do fewer of these people, these business persons, go to the Trade Office in Mexico City now? If they are from Winnipeg, or Brandon, or wherever they are from Manitoba, do they go to the Manitoba office and in effect are we virtually drawing, if you like, business away — if you want to use that expression or I might use that expression — from the services provided or offered by the Canadian Trade Commissioner.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** No, Mr. Chairman, and according to Augustine Gomez, the Ambassador to Canada from Mexico, and Claude Charland, the Ambassador to Mexico from Canada, when they both attended the Mexico trade meeting that was held here in Winnipeg, they both took the time to come up and speak, they both took the time, especially Mr. Charland to say that the co-operation between the two offices was excellent and they welcomed the office from Manitoba in Mexico to work with the Canadian Embassy as we have always done.

As I explained when we announced the office in my Estimates last year that the reason for the office is the Canadian Trade Office works with Canada and all provinces of Canada, but there are times when you're on the spot that you can do better for your own manufacturers and that is what our intention is, is to assist Manitoba manufacturers in a very large growing market. There has been no effort to take anything away from the Canadian Embassy. As a matter of fact, they all work very well together.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Lloyd G. HYDE (Portage la Prairie):** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Based on that premise or that policy of trying to assist Manitoba businessmen in Mexico to a greater degree than they could be assisted with the federal office, I'd like to ask the Minister, has he given thought or has the department considered setting up offices in the Middle East? As we all know, large amounts of income are now accruing to such countries as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc. These two are very much in the category of developing countries. They are in a position of course to buy various kinds of equipment that is made in Manitoba. I would suggest everything from dust collecting equipment to air conditioning equipment, telephone equipment and various items that we do well, that we can produce in this province of ours. I would think that would be a priority area because as we realize they do have the cash flow now. They have the income and I know they are attempting to modernize their economies and so on. It would seem to me that if there is any priority that would be an area that should be given serious consideration. I'm not suggesting whatsoever that we have offices in competition with the Federal Government; in fact, I lament that, but it seemed to me that there may be more potential in the Middle East than there is in Mexico.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Our priority has been Western Canada, the States to the south of us, the western part of the United States and Mexico. The Canadian government feels that Mexico is a very large priority and there is a very good opportunity for Manitoba manufacturers to do well in the Mexican market with an effort being put on it. We have no intention at the present time of opening up offices in the Middle East; our priority is Mexico at the present time. It's much more better geographically located. They have very similar types of agricultural operation that we do and we are able to introduce our manufacturers of products in Manitoba into that area and our products fit very well in that area. There is no question that I would probably like to have offices in many different places, but our first priority, our first decision was to open a small office in Mexico. The honourable member well knows that he had the same person working for him in Mexico as we have working for us at the present time.

**MR. EVANS:** I wasn't aware that it was the same person. We certainly had a sales person in that area who didn't have an office, but I understand worked out of his home. At any rate, I wonder if the Minister could give us at least an approximate idea of the sales facilitated by Manitrade by country. In other words, just what are the countries that Manitrade is involved with and could he give us an approximate idea, is it 20 percent to the United States and 5 percent to Mexico and X percent to Germany or whatever? Could the staff, the Minister, give us an approximation of sales facilitated by Manitrade by country?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Excuse me, could the member just repeat the last part of the question? I got the first part.

**MR. EVANS:** Is it possible for the Minister to give us a breakdown of sales facilitated by Manitrade — Manitoba Trading Corporation — by country. In other words, could he give us an approximation of all the activities of the Manitoba Trading Corporation? What percent went to let's say the United States; what percentage went to Mexico; what percentage went to Germany or whatever country? Is there some approximate idea that the Minister could give us to see just where the activity is?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'll get that information for the honourable member and give it to him tonight.

**MR. EVANS:** The Minister mentioned that the priority was to facilitate sales elsewhere in Canada and I agree with him in that priority; that's the logical first market for us and I agree the second logical market is then probably upper mid-western portion of the United States, simply by virtue of geographic proximity. What special efforts has the Manitoba Trading Corporation or the staff engaged in market development, engaged in export sales, and I use the term exports meaning exports out of the province not out of the country but out of the province? What special efforts have been made, if any, to sell to Western Canada, facilitate the sale by Manitoba business establishments to Western Canada?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Manitoba Trade, Manitrade, does not facilitate any sales. Manitrade is basically a bridge financing organization at the present time which operates the office in Mexico but the Manitrade do not go out and sell. I explained this last year. The Manitrade is no longer a selling agency for companies.

Under this particular part of the Estimates we have in Market Development a general manager, one development officer, two administrative secretaries, a receptionist, two staff, one a co-ordinator and one development officer responsible for special projects, that's the co-ordinator for special projects being Mr. Murray Armstrong on NFA and the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program.

The six development officers are assigned to market representation, two for Western Canada, one for south central United States, one for the west coast, one for USA mid-west and one for the northwest, and three staff for market services, one senior development officer, one development officer and clerk for operations — there's 16 people in this division.

The operation of the division is to have your development officers become very aware of the products that are manufactured by Manitoba firms and the call on their territories, contact the Consuls in these particular areas other than Western Canada and certainly in the United States. They call on companies on the basis of representing Manitoba manufacturers and present to them a manufacturer in Manitoba that these people may have reason to buy from or could buy from. After the contacts are made, they're put together with the Manitoba manufacturer and the Manitoba manufacturer does his own selling. We would assist at that time on information regarding the tariffs, freight, et cetera, all of the information that they may need.

The Sourcing Program is also handled in this department. The representatives have the availability

of the Sourcing Program that is presently in place that I mentioned last night, I was asked about, and they use the Sourcing Program to a very great extent.

Manitrade is not a sales organization for companies.

**MR. EVANS:** I guess it's a matter of phraseology. I asked what efforts were made to facilitate sales and I gather what the development officers are doing is simply that; they're facilitating sales. At any rate I don't want to get hung up on definitions. One question about this Mexican office. Does it have any promotional literature on the province and has that promotional literature now been translated into Spanish? Last year we were told that there was no Spanish material which I would think would be in order if you're dealing with a country that speaks Spanish. If you want to sell, you have to sell in the language that the potential customers can understand and it would seem to me appropriate to do this.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The literature that we have on Manitoba is available. We have literature in economic development. It is not translated into Spanish, that's one of the obvious reasons for the office is that we have people that can interpret for Canadian businessmen. The company that is doing the selling to the contacts made in Mexico have the responsibility to supply their own literature. We don't translate companies' literature for them.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(c) the Member for Brandon East

**MR. EVANS:** In looking at the latest Annual Report that we've been given, the year ending March 31, 1980 of the department on Page 33, Exhibit B refers to the Manitoba Trading Corporation's Report of Finances, Exhibit B, Statement of Revenue and Expenditure. I note that whereas in 1979 the Corporation was in the black so to speak — in 1979 it shows \$12,886 in brackets but that's expenditure under revenue. In other words revenues exceeded expenditures for March 31, 1979 when there was a fair amount of sales by the Manitoba Trading Corporation. In 1980 the sales dropped considerably to 161,000. In other words there was a lot less activity by the Manitoba Trading Corporation and it's interesting to note that it lost money, \$18,605.00. What accounted for the reduction in sales? In 1979 it shows almost 640,000 and then it drops to 161,000. Is this because of the policy of not being involved whatsoever in helping sales by being involved as it's described here in sales? In other words it says the Trading Corporation participated directly in export sales totalling 161,000 with earnings, etc. etc. In addition sales of 512,000 were assisted without taking title of goods but by providing marketing and operational assistance.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** As I mentioned, in 1980 we did not use Manitrade as a sales office. We did not produce, purchase merchandise and resell it and that is the reason for the drop. I'm told there were some negotiations or some deals I guess you could call them in the process but the policy was changed in 1980.

**MR. EVANS:** Does the Minister agree with my observation. I think I'm reading it properly — you lost money in the last year, 18,600, nor does this include the salaries of the people that may be assisting this Corporation so actually on a balance sheet basis there is a greater loss. Really there's a subsidy in effect through free services of the officers of the department who are making Manitrade work because there are no wages, no salaries shown in the expenditures. So I guess if salaries were shown there would be considerable loss. So really this is not a comprehensive balance sheet or a comprehensive revenue and expenditure statement for the Trading Corporation.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The loss of 18,000 was incurred because of the 22,000 of the opening of the office in Mexico. But you are correct. The employees for Manitrade and the Board of Manitrade are all employees of the Provincial Government and the staff that handle all the work for Manitrade are employees of the government.

**MR. EVANS:** Has the Minister, he may not have it immediately but can the Minister tell us what the trend has been in export sales from the province? It may be very difficult to estimate this in connection with what Manitrade itself has done, what the staff has done under the Market and Development Program? Probably they've got figures on export sales in total whether they've been involved or not. In other words what is the value of goods and services sold out of the Province of Manitoba over a number of years so we can just see what has been happening? Are we upward or are we going down or are we staying constant?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** In January to September 1980 which is the latest information again and the countries are U.S., United Kingdom, Japan, West Germany, Norway, Belgium, France, Australia, Netherlands and Italy; the total for those countries was \$743 million, all countries \$798,848, million and that's an increase over '79 — '79 was \$698,351.00.

**MR. EVANS:** Does that include sales to elsewhere in Canada?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** All those are sales to outside of Canada.

**MR. EVANS:** My last question on this, I may have another set of questions I'm not sure. Is there any particular thrust that we're going to see in the coming year by this staff, by the Market Development staff? Have we got any special export shows, exhibits, trade fairs, or any special efforts that are going to be made in the coming year to assist Manitoba business in selling outside of Manitoba?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Let me just go through the intentions for 1982. There's the Mexican office; we hope to be introducing new companies into the Mexican market, continuation of expansion of capital projects to include projects in the mining, hydro-electric sector and other energy related fields and this is part of the Sourcing Program with the marketing officers. the establishment of public

purchasing sourcing system with Manitoba to include the Provincial Governments, the Federal Government and municipal purchasing, examination of the Manitoba service sector including consultants, engineers and other service organizations.

Re-evaluation of the priority market areas will be undertaken as to provide the most effective development efforts in the Manitoba industry; continued support to the Canadian outerwear fashion as well as the organizations and exhibitions at the major Canadian trade fairs; the continuation of the expansion of educational seminar program and of course we have the two gentlemen who have been working on the NFA Program which is not completely written down and then of course the new program, the Canadian Patrol Frigate.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(c)(1) pass; 2.(c)(2) pass; 2.(d)(1) pass — the Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Is this the area that provides support to the Regional Development Corporations or is any support being provided by staff? There used to be liaison and co-ordination, etc. What is happening in that area?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'm just not sure. This is the area where it would be co-ordinated. The assistance to the Economic Development — did you say the Economic Development Corporation? Regional Economic Development Corporation is mainly done through Enterprise Manitoba; the financial assistance is done through Enterprise Manitoba.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(d)(1) pass; 2.(d)(2) pass; 2.(e)(1) pass — the Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** The Minister was going to give us some information today on the, I think it was the Canadian Food Products Centre, but also the Brandon Centre and the Winnipeg Development Centre, as to the extent to which they were being utilized. It was indicated that they were not being fully utilized and we wondered what the capacity of these two establishments were or these two centres were, Brandon and Winnipeg, and just to what extent they've been utilized. And then I have some questions separately on the Food Products Centre; we could just leave the Food Products Centre aside for the moment.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Canadian Food Products Centre in Portage la Prairie has ten staff — program director, two product development scientists, one analyst, chemist, one microbiologist, three lab technologists, one administrative secretary and one research assistant. They have completed the physical expansion of the food centre in May, 1980 and it was officially opened in June, 1980.

Core staff completed and was hired by May, 1980; basic equipment for pilot plant production of meat products has been purchased and installed; additional pilot plant and lavatory equipment purchased and installed; a major project involving the process development and pilot plant production of silverskin onions was undertaken at the centre; approximately 50 tons of material was processed and sent to clients for evaluation; encouraging response from potential clients have been received;

processing data has been prepared for the supporting Manitoba company.

The food centre has worked with approximately 80 Manitoba food companies in an attempt to provide technical assistance for the purpose of economic development. Before approximately 40 projects were carried out at the centre of which about half of an analytic nature and half product and/or process development; five seminars or group meetings held at the centre for technology transfer or program promotion.

**MR. EVANS:** Since we're talking about the food products centre, I'd like to ask the Minister why is it that there are what is referred to in the accounts as unexpected funds? That's what it says, unexpected funds, maybe they mean unexpended funds, at the beginning of the year or at the end of the year. Again, on Page 26 of the Annual Report, the last Annual Report that we have, it shows that \$323,000 was the balance of unexpected funds — I'm just reading the statement — at the beginning of the year. Just recapping, the receipts were \$414,000 approximately and disbursements were roughly \$162,000, so the excess of receipts over disbursements were \$253,000 and then there was a carry-over I guess from the previous year of roughly \$71,000.00. So you have \$323,000.00. Does this mean, Mr. Chairman, that the Centre is not utilizing the amount of money that the Federal and Provincial Governments together have made available for it? In other words, is this Centre being over-funded by the governments?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The moneys that you are referring to are provided in the form of an advance and it is used and then more money is provided in the form of an advance. You are referring to Page 26, Exhibit B?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** They are provided in a form of an advance and they are used and then there is money more advanced.

**MR. EVANS:** What is the meaning of this? What this means, I believe, is that for whatever reason the Food Products Development Centre has not been able to utilize. In Portage la Prairie, maybe the Member for Portage would take a particular interest in this. Here is your food centre that has a certain amount of funding available to it and it's not being utilized. I note under the 1980 column the balance of unexpected funds at the beginning of the year was 344. At any rate there is an adjustment, there is \$312,500 refunded I guess back to the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. In other words, this multi-million-dollar program that's been announced, we're not using it all. We're refunding it back to Ottawa or back to the general Treasury. Is that a correct interpretation? Maybe I'm not reading this properly but it seems to me that for whatever reason we're not able to utilize the financial resources that have been made available to this food products development centre. While we've had big announcements of all this money that's going to be spent, we're turning around and not utilizing it and virtually refunding it back to the Treasuries of Ottawa and Manitoba.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'm informed by the officials that there was a shift in the agreement from Industry, Trade and Commerce. Just let me get this clear. Yes, there was an agreement with Industry, Trade and Commerce that preceded the DREE agreement and we'll have to get you more details on how that shift took place but that is the reason for the moneys that you see here, the 323,263.86.

**MR. EVANS:** There was an interruption when the Minister was speaking. Is it correct then that those moneys have gone back to the general Treasury? Look at the note underneath, Adjustments, Note 2, Refund on 1979 grants, received from the Government of the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, \$312,500.00.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** It's an accounting. Previously the grants came from the Government of Canada, I.T. and C. The Enterprise Manitoba then took over the operation through the Manitoba Research Council of the operation of the Portage la Prairie Food Technology Centre. I'm informed that this is an accounting that had to be done when that change took place and we will get you the details on it. But previously that Centre — the full name of it is the Canadian Food Products Development Centre — and the funds from the Federal Government were paid through I.T. and C. It is now handled in a different way and we'll get you the detail on that.

**MR. EVANS:** Let me go about this a different way. What is the annual budget for the Canadian Food Products Development Centre? In other words, what amount of money is available to it in a particular year? I mean as I would read this statement — now this is a grant account. There are other receipts as well but the grant account shows receipts of over \$761,000 so I would have thought that is the budget available to that Centre. And it disbursed moneys, \$739,000 approximately, and there was in excess however of receipts over disbursements. It underspent by \$21,500 but then there was this balance of unexpected funds from the previous year so that \$344,808 was the balance at the beginning of the year and of that it seems to me that a great chunk of that is given back to the provincial and federal Treasuries. But the general question is, what are the funds that are available to this Centre and are they all being utilized? I would say the answer is no. The centre is not utilizing the funds that are available to it.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I would prefer to try and have this accounting question answered with a little more detail for the member because there is some confusion but MRC has a five-year program of \$4,500,000 for the Portage la Prairie Food Centre; \$793,000 is budgeted in 1981-82 and there was spent in '79-80, \$ 761,500; spent 1980-81 to January 31, 1981, \$502,000.00. The total that has been spent on the Food Centre is \$1,263,000 and that was spent in equipment and the extension of the building. Of course there are the employees that are also paid through the MRC by contract with the Manitoba Government which is with Enterprise Manitoba.

**MR. EVANS:** Would the Minister make an observation then. In his opinion is the Food Products

Development Centre overfunded or is he satisfied that it is appropriately funded?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** It's not overfunded, it's in the agreement, the Enterprise Manitoba agreement of \$4,500,000 has been allotted to the Food Centre in Portage la Prairie. Now we have to estimate how much money we will be using each year. We expect that we will certainly be taking up the amount of money in the agreement but certainly if there's something that . . . let me put it another way. We will not go out and just spend the money for the sake of spending it but we estimate each year how much money we'll be using out of the Enterprise Manitoba agreement for the five-year agreement.

**MR. EVANS:** Very specifically then, on Page 26 under the Exhibit B, 1980, just what . . . I don't know whether the Minister has explained this but I don't follow him if he has. What exactly is the \$312,500.00? It says refund on 1979 grants received from the Government of the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada — exactly what is that?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I could do it two ways. I could have it detailed in writing for the member tonight or I could have the person who handles the finances explain it to him right now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What's the desire of the committee?

The honourable gentleman.

I would probably ask the Minister if he'd forward the name of the gentleman for the Hansard purpose.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Bob McPhee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Mr. McPhee.

**MR. BOB MCPHEE:** Thank you. Mr. Evans, I'll attempt to try and answer this question of yours. There was an agreement with Canada . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Vital.

**MR. D. JAMES WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, I know that in some other committees outside of Estimates we have had members of the staff speak to MLAs and explain points but it has never been to my knowledge a matter of form when members of staff have entered into the debate or the discussion or even spoken directly to the committee — (Interjection)— well whether it's leave or not, Mr. Chairman, I suggest it would be a serious change from the rules which have prevailed for so long. It certainly does not happen in the House and as you're aware this committee is an extension of the House. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that you not let it happen until you've had an opportunity to check with the Government House Leader and perhaps even with the Rules Committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I believe that in answer to the Honourable Member for St. Vital, I believe that is my interpretation also that only I think on one occasion when a Minister was sick or waylaid that maybe we made the exception. So possibly the answer to the Member from Brandon East that it maybe could be, Mr. Minister, put in writing to keep within the rules as I understand them and I need help here.

The Member for St. Vital.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, if I may elaborate just slightly. On the Public Accounts Committee which is a Standing Committee of the House, members of the staff have addressed the committee. In Law Amendment Committee, which is also a Standing Committee, the same thing has happened there whether there have been questions of for example, legal counsel. Members will know that Public Utilities Committee and maybe one or two other committees of a similar nature. It has happened that members of the staff have provided information for the committee. This is a different committee entirely, Mr. Chairman. This is the Committee of Supply of the House and I would repeat that I ask you to take it under advisement before allowing a precedent to be set in this committee which we might regret in the future.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** A point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think my colleague is offering good advice. If however you decide that you want to proceed perhaps you could again ask for leave in which case I assume my colleague will deny leave and that will settle that particular matter, because he and I didn't hear that call — we were discussing a matter and maybe if you ask for leave again to clarify then you'd find it denied and then you could take it under advisement or just proceed in the normal fashion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I think the Chair would . . . I see the Member for Portage here about on the same point of order I presume.

**MR. LLOYD G. HYDE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order. If the rules of the committee will permit you to ask for leave it would be an opportunity at this time to have this matter explained in detail.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is the feeling of the Chair really that I just stop here and take it under advisement until someone advises unless the Minister or someone else has a . . .

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Not on the point of order, Mr. Chairman. I made this statement, we could either have it detailed fully here tonight on paper or I said it could be answered in detail right now and we will give more detail. The I.T. and C. had a program with the government, when it was changed, they advanced us moneys and when it came under the new program the moneys were moved back into I would say into the program and moved back into the Provincial Government Program. Now we will detail that all on paper tonight. It doesn't matter to me whether it's answered tonight or answered here in the committee, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, that's fine. We had one or the other option and it was immaterial to myself and maybe that's the easier way to go and in a white constitutional crisis, etc. The only thing I would observe is that we have the same, you go back to

'78, you look through '78, '79 and '80 and there always seems to be balance of unexpended funds so I just wondered if this is a pattern for some years. Now if there's some technical explanation that you're going to give us, fine, but it seemed to me that there was always some unexpected or unexpended — I always thought it should be unexpended — I think it should read unexpended, I think there is a typographical error in this latest report. The previous report says unexpended so I suspect that's what it is.

Well, just putting that aside, the Food Products Centre aside for a moment, there is this other Industrial Technology Centre and the same type of thing happens here. You have balance of funds left over and it's smaller amounts but the same pattern that you see with the Industrial Technology Centre. So you may want to think about that as well.

I'd like to move on then to the Enterprise Development Centres. The Brandon and the Winnipeg Enterprise Development Centres, the Minister was going to tell us something about them. He was going to give us some figures today and we were going to discuss the utilization of those centres.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** First of all, the member asked me for the members of the Enterprise Development Centre Board in Brandon and it is Mr. Wally Buckley, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Allan Pearson, Jim Burgess, Jim Figol, Robert Lawson, Steve Higgins, J. Fries, and Al Loveridge. The Brandon Enterprise Development Centre has one manager, one administrative secretary and four business consultants.

The purpose of the Brandon Centre is to provide Western Manitoba's small manufacturing firms and other sectional small businesses with an improved access to a variety of business consulting and support services. The Centre is designed in a highly visible and provide accessible facilities for small business throughout the western region of the province. The Centre is located at 1451 Richmond. It was completed in April of 1980; the official opening held in May, 1980 and followed by an Industrial and Awareness Week, a display of local products. The eight of the nine advance factory space modules are occupied with 100 percent occupancy except in the current fiscal year.

Now I believe I said last night that it wasn't full, that we've got empty space there now? — (Interjection)— We have one module. Six advance factory space clients represented a capital investment of \$300,000 and 30 new jobs created with the project growth to 50 in year two. The projected first-year sales are estimated at 2 million. Three of the advance factory space clients are engaged in the production of import replacement items.

All programs have been implemented in the Centre with the staff having assisted 111 clients to date, approximately 13 of these have received RSEI grants, five have received assistance from the Manitoba Design Institute and six others have received other advance and feasibility study reports. The Centre has worked closely with Sekine Canada Limited. Employment has risen from eight employees to 80 and the company forecasts a \$5.6 million sales projection for next year. The community focus, a delivery method whereby the total resources of the Brandon EDC are applied to the rural community has now been introduced into three communities.

The Centre has a new board in place, and I just gave you the board members, and allowing for more rural outlook with representation from Virden, Portage and Boissevain. The intentions of the Centre in 1982: the Centre will develop and maintain a strong rural activity and will place major consideration on fostering environmental initiatives. Management development is also going to be a major thrust for the Centre and this will be completed by seminars and workshops. The centre will endeavour to foster and maintain a strong interface with related government and private sector agencies aiding all small businesses.

The officers in Brandon work with small businesses throughout the western part of Manitoba to help them develop more business there and develop new industries and assist them in expanding.

**MR. EVANS:** Why isn't the Brandon Centre fully utilized? You have 21,000 square feet, I'm not sure how many modules you have, five, six? Why is one empty?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** There are nine. As I understand it, they were all full. Eight are filled and one is being considered at the present time.

**MR. EVANS:** I'm surprised that there is an empty — were all of them filled and someone moved out?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** No.

**MR. EVANS:** Is there much of a waiting list? I would imagine there is not much of a waiting list.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I can't tell you how many applications are on file to go in but we could certainly give you that but the board would have to make decisions on the number of who would go into the module.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, what criteria does the board or the department use on admission? I can think of a lot of fledgling entrepreneurs who might like to get this kind of assistance but maybe they don't qualify but I don't know what the qualifications are. Just how do you qualify to become a tenant of the Enterprise Development Centre?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** There have been tenants for the Enterprise Development Centre in Brandon on the basis of, first of all, there is an application comes in. There is an investigation as to whether the company has the amount of space that it needs to do a business properly. Also, within the assessment, has the company got a future? If the company has some assistance with a rental accommodation set up as there is in the enterprise in the modules, will this company be one that will be employing more people when they go in and with the potential of employing more people and the potential of having a business that can expand after I guess we call it an incubation time into the industrial area of Western Manitoba. Those are all examined by the board and the decision is made by the board as to who goes in.

**MR. EVANS:** What's the name of the eight companies or groups or individuals that are in the names of the firms, the eight firms that are in the centre now?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'll supply that to the member, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. EVANS:** How does the Minister and his staff assure themselves that you're not bringing along an enterprise that may make things rather difficult for existing enterprises? In other words, if you have a local industry that's well established providing some product that's consumed locally, how do you assure yourselves that you're not helping someone else to get established that will take business away from some existing manufacturer? Therefore while you're helping one party, one firm, you are hurting another firm and I think that of course is a perennial problem that you have in this department with all programs I suppose whether it be firms that are going into these centres or whether it be grants or whether it be any kind of assistance. I suppose it's a perennial problem that one faces when you offer these services. But it seemed to me that is a problem and how do you assure yourself that you're not bringing into existence some production that is going to simply make it difficult or hurt some existing business?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I think that's a problem with the two areas of the Enterprise Manitoba where there is assistance, one being the rural small enterprise grants and the other being the assistance to businesses by being placed in the modules with a reasonable rent or a lower rent, a graduated rent, as to whether we are assisting somebody that will become competition to existing businesses. The boards are instructed to take a look at that very seriously. The boards receive advice from the officers that are working out of the small business development area and we have had only, I believe, one occasion in Brandon where we have had somebody say that we had assisted somebody and it was in RSEI Program that may have been a detriment to another industry. I personally had that complaint come to me and I asked the board to be sure that this wasn't the case; they examined it and they felt there was room for two. But it is always the problem when you're making those decision. If there is somebody requesting for assistance to go into a business that is already established business; if it's a new business or a new type of business in the area there is no problem but we do take that very seriously in the consideration when we examine people that make requests to us if there is that type of business in the community at that time.

**MR. EVANS:** How long is it expected that these fledgling firms will be in the incubation centres? How long do you expect to have them as active tenants? Surely there's a point in time, a year, two years or whatever.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Two years.

**MR. EVANS:** The absolute limit is two years.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I wouldn't say the absolute limit. I don't think we would be opposed to extending it the same as was done in Dauphin. If we found that they had to go into a new building, leaving our building, if we felt that they needed another six months but the assessment would be made at that time. But certainly there is no intention to have

people operating in the government building for a long time because that defeats the program. We may as well go out and buy a bunch of buildings and rent cheap space if we were going to do that.

**MR. EVANS:** What about the Winnipeg Centre? How many spaces does it have and how many of those are occupied?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** There's 11 in Winnipeg and 9 have been occupied to this date.

**MR. EVANS:** Could the Minister advise why it's not fully occupied?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I can only answer that by saying that the board hasn't felt that there's been applications that warrant going in there.

**MR. EVANS:** I find this very strange. I hope it's not a sign of a weakness in our own economy, that is, we've seen other signs of weakness. But is this yet another sign where you have presumably a very generous program available to would-be entrepreneurs, new businessmen and their getting subsidized space, they are getting free technical services and 11 spaces in a city the size of Winnipeg is certainly not a large number and I find it very disturbing to find that only 9 of the 11 spaces are filled up. It would indicate that perhaps there are not that many people out there who are anxious or see much opportunity in additional manufacturing in the province. Maybe they are discouraged by what they see to be a lack of demand for their products. I don't know, I'm just asking. Is this another sign of some weakness? Because I for one find it disturbing that the Centre has been opened, I'm not sure how long, the Winnipeg Centre was opened in February 1980 so it's been open a year, it's got the staff, a full staff is in place, everybody's . . . I gather from the report there's nine business consultants and a manager plus administrative support staff. It's a very nice location, brand new facilities. I'm surprised that for whatever reason we've only got 9 out of 11 occupied.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** It was opened in March and there are applications on file and being considered at the present time for the balance of the space. I might say that the board's instructions are on the basis of not telling them what to do, they make recommendations but to examine them all very carefully and that's what they have been doing. There's no doubt in my mind that we could have probably filled it in a month but the examination of the people making applications and taking into consideration some of the things that the member has brought up regarding competition, etc., and taking into consideration the sectors that the government has laid down as sectors that we want to see advanced in the Province of Manitoba — that's the reason why they're very careful as to who uses the modules.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Fort Rouge. If the Member for Brandon was through he . . . The Member for Fort Rouge.

**MRS. WESTBURY:** Mr. Chair, I wanted to thank the Minister at long last for answering my query of June

23 relative to an application under the name of the Notre Dame Machine Shop Enterprise Manitoba. I sent a follow-up letter on October 14 and finally had a letter last week or the week before dated January 22 answering my questions of last June, Mr. Chair. I don't suppose the file is there but this continues to concern me.

One of the statements made in the letter was that the Village of Notre Dame de Lourdes already had a machining capability which did not receive government assistance and was operating considerably below capacity. But one of the points that was made, Mr. Chair, was that there were services being offered by Mr. Briscese that were not being offered within many miles of the Village of Notre Dame de Lourdes and the reasons keep changing. The Minister in the House last year said that this was principally a repair function which is not eligible but at the time we found out that there were in fact a number of repair operations that are being funded under Enterprise Manitoba and we couldn't see the justification for refusing one when others have been accepted. There was also a letter and I believe that this was attached to the application or came in subsequently from the Village of Notre Dame de Lourdes endorsing this new business in that village, in Mr. Briscese's village. I've never met Mr. Briscese. This was brought to me by other people who are supportive of his application. What I'm trying to say is I don't want him to be considered to be a Liberal and therefore to be punished. I would hope and expect and I know the department wouldn't act in that way. I would hope that the Minister would give the same consideration to these questions as he would if they were brought forward to him by a member of his own group.

I just don't understand how the inconsistency of repair shops sometimes qualifying, in this case when it's a component only not qualifying and why he would say that the Village had a capability when in fact the Village has endorsed Mr. Briscese as an applicant. I don't know if the Minister remembers the case or if again he would have to come forward with some of the answers at a later time but I find this very bewildering.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e).  
The Honourable Minister.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I have had the case examined three times by the board. That was one of the reasons why the letter was not answered as soon as you may have wanted it to be. I am satisfied that the board has looked at this application very very closely. One of the things that has to be taken into consideration is that can the new business even with the expansion sustain itself from the point of view that, is there a market large enough there to handle it and for him to supply? The board has examined that application as I said three times and I believe they are very justified in recommending that that will not be approved. We don't approve them all. As I said, the boards take a very close look at all the applications. In this particular one we have examined it very thoroughly because of your letters and your questions and we do not feel that this is a grant that we want to make. The fact that the town has said that they support the application, that is one consideration that the board would take into their

deliberations but we have had some applications where you have had people say go around town and visit different people within town and say if we had this would you buy from me? And the answer is usually yes. That does not mean that we feel that business will be a successful business.

**MR. EVANS:** Talking about these rural small enterprise incentive grants, what amount is in the Budget and I know it's in this item, just how much is in the Budget for this fiscal year that we're now considering in these Estimates for the year ending March 31, 1982?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** \$1,245,000.00.

**MR. EVANS:** \$1,245,000.00. Why is it expected to offer a lower level of assistance through this program than you had in the previous years?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** One of the reasons for the lower level of the program is we are starting to run out of money. There is only \$5 million in the program and the program was taken up very extensively in the first part of the program. We've estimated that we'll do about 65 this year and the estimate for 65 is \$1,245,000.00.

**MR. EVANS:** Is it possible for a firm to apply for a second grant or a second round of assistance after a period of time?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Yes, if they haven't received the total amount of the grant, they can make application to the board for a second grant. Those are examined extensively for a very good reason. We have to be very sure that the second grant is needed to expand the business. We have to examine very carefully that the business is not just needing the second grant to pull them out of financial problems. The second grant has to be there on the basis of expansion and for future business so they are examined very carefully. The other reason is we don't like to give somebody money twice when there are others waiting for their first application.

**MR. EVANS:** I take it then that the maximum amount under this program per firm is \$30,000 and that, as I understand the Minister if, let us say, they qualified for \$20,000 one year, it's possible that they could apply all or part of a \$10,000 balance in a second year. But in no way would the department or the Minister provide more than \$30,000 in maximum at anytime.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** That's correct. I think I'm right in saying that we've had two or three — I think it's three from my memory of approving them but we haven't had too many out of the number of loans that we've made. As I said, they are examined very carefully.

**MR. EVANS:** The Minister says that they've allocated a lower amount this year because he may be running out of money or words to that effect and we have \$1,245,000 available. Is there any indication what could be spent? I'm not suggesting that you have no limit, I'm not by any means, and one-and-a-quarter million is a fair amount of money but if you

had no Budget constraints under the Industrial Development Agreement signed with Canada through DREE. what could be taken up? In other words, what is the potential out there? Presumably these moneys do assist in expansion of establishments that do assist in providing some jobs albeit on a very modest scale, but nevertheless, and what I'd like to know is are we meeting half of the potential, 80 percent of the potential, or all of it, or just where does that stand? What are we going to accomplish with one-and-a-quarter million dollars?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** 65 grants. That's what we've budgeted for this year and we feel it will handle 65 grants.

**MR. EVANS:** Let me put it another way then, Mr. Chairman. How many companies will go unsatisfied? In other words, presumably it's on a first-come, first-serve basis, providing they fulfill all the criteria — right? They fulfill all the criteria, first come, first serve, 65 grants. How many would be left unsatisfied, another 65, 50, 30, 10?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I will try to get that figure for him. He's asking for the figure of the number of applications versus the number of grants. I'll try to get that figure.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hour of 4:30 having arrived, I move that committee rise for Private Members' Hour. Committee rise.

## SUPPLY — AGRICULTURE

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson):** This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to Page 10 of the Main Estimates, Department of Agriculture, Resolution No. 10, Clause 4. Item is (f) Agricultural Training Branch, (1) Salaries pass. Order please. The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, last night there was a question from the Member for St. George on the issue of seed analysis and I referred to a letter that I said was available. I understand that he had already received a copy of a letter indicating the quality of the feed, so he has the letter that I referred to. However, I do have a little more information on the quality of the feed. The canary seed straw, I guess I would refer to it as, has a protein of something like 10 percent as opposed to rapeseed at 17 percent; fibre, 29 percent of the canary seed and 15 percent on the rapeseed. TDN, canary seed, 54 percent; and rapeseed at 65. So the analysis of the feeds are demonstrated that the type of feed that was referred to by the department as being of higher quality is in fact that. Those by the way are the immature samples taken on canary seed straw.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate when he indicates the samples on canary seed straw versus rapeseed, whether that sample was in effect straw after harvesting or whether that

was actual hay that was cut and sampled and tested? I want to be very specific because he makes mention that it's straw and we know that canary seed has a long maturity. At the time of the Greenfeed Program the canary seed was, long before maturity, was cut strictly for hay purposes and was not even near the mature state.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Those were the immature figures that I gave him, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. URUSKI:** Immature? Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether they were amateur or immature. I'm assuming from the Minister and he can correct me if I'm wrong that these samples were taken this year and analysed of this year's quality of hay. Is that what he's indicating?

**MR. DOWNEY:** I wouldn't know specifically, Mr. Chairman, if that were the case. I'm sure Morrison's book on "Feed and Feeding" would be where some of the information came from. It could also be from some actual practical samples that were taken at the lab but I don't have that information at this point. I think it's a situation which I referred to earlier that we could review as a department on the specifics of it and get on with the job of debating the departmental Estimates. If it's a unique case, then we can further review it.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in the past we've heard about these reviews that the Minister of Agriculture promised us. Does that simply mean that, fine, so we don't debate it, let's take it off the table and leave it? To review it, what does that mean? Can the Minister explain what he means by his review; is to let's forget about today and hoping that people will go away and forget about the program and not do anything about it? What is he meaning by review? Can he give me some indication what he intends to do with this?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, there is by no means trying to sidestep the issue. It's just a matter of talking of the difference between the quality of canary seed straw or rapeseed that has been put up for feed purposes. That is the issue. I've indicated the difference; there has been a decision made; if he further wants to debate whether or not canary straw should be used as a Greenfeed Program or whether it should not be and whether it should be used as opposed to rapeseed, then we can debate it, but let's tell the public what we're debating and make it very clear. I think that we can look at it as a department. If the decision were to suggest that there was an extreme hardship case in this particular example, then consideration would be given. But it's being administered on the basis of consistent decision-making process within the department and at this point I have no intent of changing it.

**MR. URUSKI:** That's better, Mr. Chairman, at least now we know where the Minister stands on this issue. The point that I raised was not in reference to canary seed straw; it was canary seed hay and there is quite a difference, I think the Minister well knows, in terms of the two specimens that he spoke about.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister now indicates unless there is a hardship there is no intent to reveal the

program. Would the Minister be inclined to have a second look to review his position if tests showed that the quality of the product is very close to the rapeseed and may be above quality of other field crops which may have been totally weed infested with lesser protein content than the canary seed straw? Would that have made a difference to the Minister whether that was included under the program or not?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, that it was immature straw that I had given him the protein differences on and the difference in mature canary seed straw is 3 to 4 percent as opposed to the rapeseed at 17 percent. I think probably what the member is telling me, that if he can demonstrate or the individual can demonstrate extreme hardship and other evidence, that canary seed grass or straw is being discriminated against for a justifiable reason further than what I have, then I'm prepared to look at it.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to point to a case of hardship. What I am intending to ask the Minister and try to elicit some advice on him is on the point of equity, because other crops and other grains whether they have been crops that were written off and were weed infested in terms of the farmers decision of not spraying because of the uncertainty and the growth pattern that occurred last spring, many of those crops went under the Greenfeed Program. Their quality in terms of protein would have been less than in terms of the hay quality of canary seed and from the point of view of equity I fail to see and fail to understand the reasoning within the department and the Minister's reasoning that this crop would have been left out from the program. Were there many other crops that were left out of the program that were not considered, Mr. Chairman? Maybe that will shed some light, that maybe I am barking up the wrong tree, that there were other crops that were left out, that were applied for and they were not . . . what criteria did the department use? Maybe the Minister has a criteria that was established and that can be readily given to me and the issue can be dispensed with.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Before I acknowledge the next speaker, I'm a little bit confused. We are on item 5.(f) which is Agricultural Training Branch and I know that there was some promise of one party supplying information to another at this sitting and I think that that information was supplied but I don't think that extended debate should be allowed on this particular item.

The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** On the point that you raise, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated he would provide technical background data. He did provide information of some letter that I received several weeks ago on corresponding with him over the several months with respect to a constituent who had written me but, Mr. Chairman, he did not provide the information and the data and I did raise the points and that dealt with . . . we're still in the same area of debate, the Agricultural Production Division and although we did pass Section (d) Soils and Crops where we had the debate on this very

point, if you wish us to stop debate at the end of this resolution we can raise it then. I really don't see the difference in terms of timing whether now or later.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well it was for my own convenience rather than for the convenience of the members because after we had passed the debate on this item I wouldn't have known where to go, whether to go to the next item which was (e) which is already passed or go back to (f) which is the item under discussion. So I would suggest to the honourable members that if there was any additional information or discussion or debate on this particular item that before the item is completely passed, Resolution 10 is completely passed, might be the time as a follow-up on the whole item. (f) Agricultural Training Branch (1) Salaries.

The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Yes. Mr. Chairman, last night as we began I raised questions with respect to the Agricultural Mechanics Course in Brandon. The Minister indicated that that area of expenditure was in this section and it was my understanding it would have been under the Technical Services but he indicated it would be in this section and he was to provide some details on the course to us.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, is the member referring to the proposed Farm Machine Mechanics Course proposed for the new extension to the Brandon Assiniboine Community College which my colleague, the Minister of Education, along with the Member for Brandon West worked very hard to obtain for the City of Brandon, and of course we can't forget about the Member for Souris-Killarney who is also a major part in the decision to help. Give that facility to Western Manitoba, something that they've been long waiting for and pleased to be able to have supported that addition to the Assiniboine Community College in Brandon.

I, Mr. Chairman, would like to respond to the member that there is a proposed Farm Machinery Course to be put into the facility in Brandon. I think the initial projections were to have started that particular course this coming fall but I would have to get an exact update.

**MR. URUSKI:** Last fall?

**MR. DOWNEY:** No, in the 1981 fall. No I would have to debate the member. I think that any proposal to start a mechanics course couldn't be before the building was built because they didn't have the facility and I think that it was talked about in last year's estimates that 1981, the fall, if the facility was ready, would be in fact ready. I may also say that there are some other farm machine courses taking place throughout the province — 8 farm machine courses with 88 participants and these are held throughout the different regions of Manitoba.

**MR. URUSKI:** What kind are they?

**MR. DOWNEY:** They are farm mechanics courses, Mr. Chairman. I think basically just for information on the Farm Mechanics Course, it's a program that the

department are supporting and I'm sure that it will add to the supporting of the farm community through providing of people to work on the highly modern and technical equipment that's available to them today.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman. I thought when I raised the point that there was no need for any further questions or comments in this area. I only wish to point out after hearing the great announcements from the Minister of Agriculture that he has already within his own plans and budget within his own government, he's already going to be one year behind time from not only the prognosis but the commitment, and I read from his own Annual Report: The target date for commencement of the course is September 1, 1980. In his own Annual Report which was a year ago, and there is yet nothing happening in terms of his commitment to the agricultural machine industry and farmers in general in Manitoba, notwithstanding the comments that were already made by the Member for Rock Lake in his great chagrin about the availability of parts and the availability of service to farmers.

This course, the Minister should remember was in the process of being developed some five or six years ago I believe. It was in the works within government. It seems that the Minister and his party since they got into office over the last three-and-a-half years have kind of slipped by them and certainly this would have been an added base of support to the farmers in the farm machinery industry in the Province of Manitoba, which the Member for Rock Lake in his questions in the last two days indicated that members on this side were so upset about the Saskatchewan legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I think in terms of support to the Saskatchewan farmers that the input of their farm machinery legislation, which I've not had an opportunity as yet to check, but I intend to look at it further. Mr. Chairman, this course would certainly have been a benefit. It was intended to be proceeded with by the government but somehow it slipped by the boards in terms of this government's commitments. So, Mr. Chairman, I guess we'll have to wait one more year in terms of their proposals or probably we will have an announcement, although it's three or four years late, in terms of an election campaign in the City of Brandon indicating that this year, this October, we will have a farm machinery course which certainly will add to our policy of strengthening rural Manitoba and rural life.

Mr. Chairman, the backbenchers themselves should question him as to why it hasn't been put in in the fall of 1980. It's in his Annual Report, Mr. Chairman, the commitment it was to be set for September, 1980, and yet, he indicates, look, really, that wasn't our commitment at all. He wanted to take his name off the publishing of statistics; he now wants to take his name off the wording in his own Annual Report. Mr. Chairman. I mean is he going to accept some responsibility or isn't he in terms of what is happening in rural Manitoba.?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I am quite prepared to take full responsibility for what happens in the Department of Agriculture as well as work with the agricultural community to strengthen it. I would have to indicate at this time that the development of the

farm machine mechanics course was proposed for the new facility that's being built in Brandon. It may have started in a preliminary way last fall if they could accommodate it. Those specific details I will be able to obtain from the member but I would think in a more general way, as far as the costing and the whole operation of that program, that the administration of it takes place within the Department of Education and we can further get that information during the Estimates of that department, but I will provide specific information for him if in fact there was a start in the program last fall. But I am quite prepared to stand here fully responsible, Mr. Chairman, in every way for the programs that are taking place within my department.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the Minister is prepared to stand behind his own statements. Is the Minister denying that the statement indicating that target date for commencement of the course is September 1, 1980 and said "the Board continued to work with committees from the industry of Manitoba's community colleges to make available a two year farm machinery mechanics course?" Is he not standing behind that statement, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, that report that he is referring to comes from the Farm Machinery Board who were I'm sure targeting at that particular date. The actual starting of the course, I am going to check out to see just at what particular time that it will in fact take place. But what he is referring to in the Annual Report is a report directly from the Farm Machinery Board.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, absolutely. Under whose jurisdiction does the Farm Machinery Board lie; is it not under the Minister of Agriculture who oversees the budget and the spending of the Farm Machinery Board and in turn sets policy and goals through his department? One of the goals to promote a better rural economy and to be able to provide services to farmers would be through this course, and surely he's not backing away from that now, is he, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that when a government appoints a board they have some confidence in the capabilities of those individuals who are appointed on those boards. It is an appointed board. If he's telling me, Mr. Chairman, that when he was the Minister of the Crown as well as his colleagues that he directed the Board of Directors what he wanted done, no wonder we had such a state society under the NDP government because they were believing or listening to what the directive was from the Minister of the day.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, it seems that the best defence that the Minister has is to go on some kind of a highfalutin offence. Mr. Chairman, if the Minister is going to have some confidence in the workings of his board, surely he will provide the backup in terms of monetary resources and expertise that the board requires in order to carry out its mandate. If he's not prepared to give them that mandate, then he may as well get rid of them because certainly even though

they may have all the desires in the world to do good things, and he may have all the confidence in the world in them about their doing good things, unless he provides the backup and the resources it doesn't mean a tinker's damn, Mr. Chairman. They can talk about it all they want, and it appears that he's prepared to allow that to happen, is for Boards to talk all they want and not have any action.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the Member for St. George was making comments to invite me to rise this afternoon, but the Farm Machinery Board, I want to support the Minister of Agriculture. Because on a number of occasions where a farmer has had a problem with dealing with a particular farm machine company, whether it be getting parts or whatever, and anytime that I have ever approached the Farm Machinery Board to look into the problem that farmer has had, it has met with good success.

I want to say to the Minister of Agriculture, and to the members opposite particularly, where the Farm Machinery Board has worked very well in recent years. But you know, Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. George is talking about Saskatchewan legislation and he was referring to the questions that I was posing this afternoon. The questions that I was posing this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, have nothing to do with this particular resolution that we're dealing with, and the only reason I rise is to respond to the Member for St. George. It has nothing to do with government in this Province of Manitoba; it's what the Saskatchewan government by way of legislation has done and has directed and dictated to farm machine companies in this country, Mr. Chairman, and is doing it.

Surely the Member for St. George knows better than to debate the way he is doing today, because I'm sure he can go out and ask the farmers in his community if they're dealing with an international dealer in his hometown that if International Harvester has to move from Winnipeg to Regina, where that isn't going to cause a problem both economically and costly to him because he's not going to have the service as quickly as he would have if the company was operating right out of Winnipeg. Because the parts, for instance, if they require them are going to be in Regina and they are going to have to come all the way from Regina back, and they come from the East.

The Member for St. George seems to think that we should not be concerned about this matter. I say to him that the machine companies, International Harvester, John Deere, whoever, should not be dictated to through legislation by any provincial government. I think if they choose to set up in any province they should be able to do that without the dictates of any provincial government legislation. I think that's very important and I think, Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. George . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose on a point of order.

**MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM:** We're dealing on training in the Department of Agriculture and I had some

questions to ask of the Minister in this particular department, this item, and the Member for Rock Lake in all due respect is talking about Saskatchewan legislation which we are not familiar with at the present time. I have some questions for the Minister and I'm just wondering, the member is talking about what is happening in Saskatchewan on . . .

**A MEMBER:** Mr. Chairman, is the Member for Ste. Rose rising on a point of order?

**MR. ADAM:** Yes.

**A MEMBER:** Okay.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** On the point of order, I had allowed the Honourable Member for Rock Lake to reply to remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. George. It has extended further than that and I would suggest that the Honourable Member for Rock Lake please keep his remarks until we get down to Saskatchewan Government legislation which might or might not come under this department.

The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. EINARSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I accept your advice but I can't help but feel, Mr. Chairman, that whatever has happened in our neighbouring provinces is having an effect on the farmers and the use that they have of farm machinery in this province. Also it could have an effect when the Farm Machinery Board has to deal with the problems perhaps it might relate outside of the Province of Manitoba. But I just wanted to make those few comments, Mr. Chairman, because I rose because of the comments made by the Member for Ste. Rose and I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have every right to rise in my place and respond in the same manner as the Member for Ste. Rose does. I'm not denying him his rights, his privileges, and I would appreciate it if he would allow me my opportunity to express my views here in this Legislature, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased that you, in a way, have allowed the latitude of debate to go this far insofar as my questions that I raised with respect to the Farm Machinery Course which has ended the debate in terms of the supply of parts and back into the constitution again, Mr. Chairman.

It seems that the Member for Rock Lake wants to keep dragging these things back in terms of the impact of one province on another, in terms of interprovincial agreements and legislation, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Rock Lake keeps saying, you raised it. Mr. Chairman, who spoke about this very matter yesterday, who raised the whole matter of interprovincial relations in debate yesterday, Mr. Chairman. The whole issue, in terms of this debate, came from the Member for Rock Lake. Mr. Chairman, I agree that he has a legitimate point of view and legitimate of him to raise the concerns about the impact of other provinces' legislation on Manitoba's agricultural scene. But he should not

forget, Mr. Chairman, in that very sense his own government, his own Minister, wanted to follow such a policy with respect to agricultural commodities. Mr. Chairman, it was this Minister who caved in to pressures by the Province of Alberta and Ontario in terms of agriculture marketing and quotas to be based on population trends rather than historical marketing relationships.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Rock Lake can talk all he wants, the fact of the matter is it was this Minister who has promoted that kind of a relationship to say that Manitoba will get its own way, just give us a chance. That's really what the Member for Rock Lake is now arguing against, Mr. Chairman, that one province shouldn't exert more pressure on an industry than another province. Isn't that really what he's getting at? Isn't that what he's really getting down to, as to whether or not Saskatchewan should have greater clout on the farm machinery industry than Manitoba because it does detract away. If that's not what he's saying I'd like to know what his position is, Mr. Chairman, because that's really the essence of his remarks is that somehow Saskatchewan has had more clout on the replacement parts industry than Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, and that's the spectre that he's trying to raise and say that farmers in Manitoba have been hard done by.

The very policy, Mr. Chairman, that his Minister has been promoting in terms of agriculture marketing. How can he now stand up and say that it's good in that area but it's bad in another area, Mr. Chairman? Let's be consistent, let's not pick and choose. If you wish to pick and choose then the debate will continue, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the issues but not only by the issues that you want to choose, Mr. Chairman, other issues will of course be brought into the picture.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Minister in this case has been left indicating that he no longer has the view that there should be a mechanics course even though it's been in the works for five years and it likely now will be another year before it's been developed because I believe it was around 1975 when the proposal started its circles within government. I appreciate now that the Member for Rock Lake, and I hope other members of the Conservative caucus, now are supportive of farm machinery legislation. Because if you recall, Mr. Chairman, it was that caucus, when in opposition, that voted against this very legislation to set up a Farm Machinery Board. The Minister points to the back. Yes, it was his colleagues, his colleagues did not support you in terms of the legislation. They voted against that legislation, Mr. Chairman, when it was originally brought in. Don't look over your shoulder too hard, Mr. Chairman, I speak to the Minister of Agriculture because your colleagues did not support that legislation at all when it was being implemented in, I think, it was '75 or '76 when the legislation was brought in. No, it was sooner than that, Mr. Chairman, '73 I believe the legislation was brought in.

So, Mr. Chairman, the bringing in of this legislation certainly had its tough moments in terms of it being brought into this province. It's certainly nice now to hear the Member for Rock Lake saying, gee that legislation has helped farmers, it has provided

farmers with reliability of parts service and has really worked well. It's nice to hear those kinds of comments, Mr. Chairman, from members who had their head in the sand six or seven years ago, who were in the Opposition and who opposed it for the mere fact of opposing it, not for the long-term benefits to farmers in the agricultural machinery industry in this province.

It helped as well, Mr. Chairman, just equally as much, not only the farmers but also the farm machinery dealers in this province, from being taken out of existence and being told how they could return their parts and the like. Some of the tactics that were being used by some of the companies were much to be desired in terms of the closing out of some of the dealerships within this province. So this legislation had much in the way of assisting those dealerships in maintaining their dealerships but also, if they were to close out, that they would not lose their shirt in terms of the returning of current parts, Mr. Chairman. So it's nice to hear the words of the Member for Rock Lake even though he really backtracked from his earlier position in years gone by. It's nice to know that he's admitted that there were some good things that the former administration brought in.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know the extent within this Budget, the extent of funding for the Agricultural Centre in Brandon, and whether the staff for that centre is paid out of these revenues and how does it operate?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of clarification. As I'd indicated there could have been a possibility that the course had started at Brandon. They were able to accommodate the first year there without the additional facilities so the course actually did start in the fall of 1980 as was indicated, Mr. Chairman, as I say, I wasn't aware of the fact that they could start it without having additional facilities but they did in fact get it going and I'm pleased that has happened.

The question on Agriculture Extension Centre, it is in this appropriation and there is some \$352,000 in place to operate the facility plus just over 11 staff man years to support that operation.

**MR. URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, insofar as the Agricultural Training Centre in terms of the operations. The funds that the Agricultural Centre collects, are they put back into the general revenues of the province and what is the cash flow of that operation, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DOWNEY:** It goes back into general revenue, Mr. Chairman, and at this point I don't have the revenues that are derived from it but that can be made available.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister have the revenues that they would have received in previous years versus expenses or there is no information?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'll have staff try and provide that figure. I don't have it right off hand. I may also add that within this appropriation we also have the work that is done in 4H; as well we have added this year an additional clothing and textile

specialist position so that we will further support the farm community. There has been a request over the past from the Women's Institute who I'm sure the Member for Lac du Bonnet is aware of their organization, plus the home economists throughout Manitoba and I'm pleased that we have been able to provide that position in this year's Estimates.

For a total last year for the operation of the centre in Brandon was \$187,550 for the residents and food services part of that operation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. SAMUEL USKIW:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister whether he can indicate to us just how many people are involved in actual on-site training for agricultural purposes, referring to training-on-the-job sort of kind of program, especially in the specialized areas, in terms of handling equipment, handling vehicles, special crops activities and so on.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Basically, Mr. Chairman, the specialists within the department, whether it be in both the engineering staff where we have professional engineers, as well as in crops production, our agriculture representatives and the regional specialists are involved in an ongoing training basis within the farm community plus additional short courses that are put on in the Extension Centre in Brandon and some other courses. Where there's need demonstrated within the farm community and the farm community have time to participate, these courses are basically carried by both the professional staff on an ongoing basis and/or additional people who are qualified to demonstrate or to educate on a periodic basis.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I'm familiar with the program that the Minister is alluding to. That is really not what I am getting at though, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know whether there are any trainees, any employee trainees on the job receiving provincial assistance, especially in the area of special crops, especially in the area of handling equipment, specialized equipment if you like. The Portage Vegetable Growers Group has a need for such training programs. How many trainees does the Minister have at this time? An effort I believe which is long overdue and we discuss this every year, Mr. Chairman, and I know last year we had zero. I was hoping by this year something would have happened and I simply would like to know whether anything is happening there?

**MR. DOWNEY:** As I indicated, Mr. Chairman, there have been ongoing, on-the-job training programs. During the last three years 97 workers have participated in various classroom training programs. Basically there were some 179 workers that have been employed and trained on the job training directly in the industry. When the member talks about the specific work that is required, in particular the Portage community, I think he is also quite well aware of the problems that the vegetable producers had during his tenure in office when, in fact, they were trying to obtain offshore workers or out of the country workers to assist them in their

harvest of their vegetable crops. In fact, our policy has been that we should provide jobs for Canadians, Manitobans, and if we are unable to provide the labour force, then allow the qualified people to come in and service that industry. There is ongoing training programs as I have indicated in the operation and the work within those industries. I would take it from what the member is saying that there should be an increased activity as far as work being done within government. The community colleges and another example, of course, is the farm machinery mechanics' course that is taking place is a step in that direction. Again, I haven't got any specific areas where the member has indicated that there should be an increase in activity.

I think the concern of trained and capable people within a diversified agriculture is one that has to be kept pace with and in any areas that there can be need shown I'm sure our agricultural representatives or specialists in those areas are quite prepared to put on those kinds of programs. We are equipped and prepared to do it and are doing it on an ongoing basis.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has just indicated that the policy of his government is that where there is no available local capacity or local workers or specific kinds of jobs in agriculture that the policy of his government is to allow or even encourage offshore workers to come in to take these positions. I would then ask the Minister whether he could indicate to me how many workers were brought in from outside the country to Manitoba in 1978 and then in 1979 and in 1980.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the numbers I gave as far as the workers and the on-the-job training program were basically within the vegetable industry in the Portage la Prairie area. There are some interesting facts and I think it supports what we believe in as a government that you have to have people who will work together to develop the industry and develop the workforce and provide both the producers and the people who are processing — in a lot of cases they are the same one — that in the number of identified jobs has increased from 218 in 1978, that is the local domestic employees, to 387 jobs in 1980. Of course, we have maintained that the people who are coming from outside of Canada are quite equipped and prepared to work along with our people to help in the training process.

Not only, Mr. Chairman, do we have the people who are working on the farms, the employees, on training programs but some of the employers, the people who are hiring these people have also been involved in some of the programs so they have an understanding of what has to be done and working right along with their people and who they employ. So I think that we have seen and I think it only can be demonstrated by the actual numbers of jobs that have been created in that industry and in that area. The numbers speak for themselves when you can show an increase of 218 jobs to some 387 jobs in the period of two years. There is a working togetherness and an objectivity out there that I think both the industry and the people who are working in

it. the employees, are to be commended in their constructive attitude.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased that the Minister has given those statistics. It does indicate some growth in that industry. What I would like to know is the answer to is the question I put to him. How many offshore workers were brought in each of the last three years, in 1978, 1979 and 1980?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, the member is aware of the fact that it's the Federal Government that allows people to come in it. It's federal jurisdiction. What I have indicated was the people coming in have been working with the people here to upgrade their workers.

**MR. USKIW:** I know all of that, how many? How many?

**MR. DOWNEY:** In 1980, the information I have, there were some 33 Mexicans plus — no, there were actually 35 Mexicans that were allowed in by the Federal Government this last year.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister to give us the statistics for each of the last three years and the Minister gave us the statistics for the last year. I wonder if he can tell us how many were brought in, in 1979 and in 1978?

**MR. DOWNEY:** I'm sure the member is quite capable of getting that information from the Federal Government who do have the jurisdiction of the . . .

**MR. USKIW:** Don't dodge it, Jim, come on.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Well, the figures I have, Mr. Chairman, are 19 in '78 and 21 in 1979.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased that the Minister has finally given us those figures because what he has just told us is that his program is not working. You know, I asked him how many people are being trained to take those positions, how many local Manitobans are being assisted by way of training under his department's program in co-operation with the Manpower program and so on, in order that we can reduce the dependency of offshore labour. The information the Minister has given us, that we have increased our dependency on offshore labour from 20 in 1978 to 35 in 1980. Now how many trainees does he have on programs of local Manitoba origin who are going to be replacing those 35 people that he is bringing in and he says it's now the federal authority?

Mr. Chairman, when we were in government the members opposite accused us of holding back on Mexican workers for Manitoba agriculture and he was right. They were right, Mr. Chairman, we were holding back because the federal authority wanted provincial concurrence and we said, no, we had under-employment in this area in terms of those people available for that industry in Manitoba and we would prefer a training program. Now the Minister says, well, it's really not me, you better talk to the Immigration people in the federal system. You can't have it both ways, Mr. Chairman. We now know and the Minister has established for us the fact that each

year we are showing greater dependency on labour from outside of this province and, worse still, from outside of this country. That is not the direction that we ought to be going, Mr. Chairman.

I know it's a painful exercise to try to train people in these specific fields but, heavenly days, his own statistics bear out the argument that we ought to be doing something. They should be going in the other direction, Mr. Chairman, we should now be at zero offshore labour. He's had three years to change that, to turn that around, and we haven't had any degree of progress.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I have sat here and listened to the red herrings that the Member for Lac du Bonnet has dragged across this floor and standing here trying to have the public of Manitoba believe that when he kept workers out from providing the industry in Portage la Prairie with people to pick the crops off the field and he would sooner leave the crops rot in the fields so the people of this province couldn't do their business and feed the people in Winnipeg or the other cities. He would sooner over a dogmatic or an ideological approach let people starve to death. That was his philosophy, Mr. Chairman.

You know what has happened, let's look at the figures, that in 1978 we saw some 3,550 acres of vegetable crops grown in Manitoba. That has increased in 1980 by 1,000 acres. By 1,000 acres, so there's been an increase in the number of jobs. Four local Manitobans, the figures I gave, there was an increase from some 218 to 300-and-some. The agreement as it was initially entered into with the workers — what the member opposite forgets about — and the people who are coming in from Mexico was one Mexican worker to help four Manitoba workers. The ratio, Mr. Chairman, is one to eight, where there is one Mexican helping eight. So we have employed that many more Manitobans and he's trying to tell the people of Manitoba that our program isn't working. We have created over 100 more jobs, not replacing them with Mexicans, but helping them, working with them, and our program is demonstrating that it's helping the industry, it's creating employment and he's trying to tell the people that it isn't when we have the facts right here before us.

We're seeing a growing expanding industry with increasing the jobs at a rate that's something that I think we should be very proud of, not standing here degrading the programs as if it's not working. It was his policies and programs that weren't working, Mr. Chairman, because with the allowing of the people to come in and help our own workers and show them better techniques, the total industry has grown. The total job opportunities have grown and in fact I think that the people of Portage la Prairie — if you ask any one of them what his record was or his government's record was as far as the total industry, both workers and let's remember this. I'm prepared to meet with the workers as well and they'll tell you the same thing that there are that many more jobs and opportunities but under his administration and his philosophy it was dying as the crops and the fields were dying and the people couldn't get them to eat it. Backward approach.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I'm still waiting for the answer. I asked the Minister how many trainees were

now involved in a program designed to displace those that are coming in here taking these jobs, coming in from Mexico, how many trainees does he have that are designed, trained, to take those jobs so that we don't have the dependency on offshore labour, Mr. Chairman, or out-of-country labour?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I don't get the point of the member's question because we have increased our acreage and vegetables. We've increased our acreage by 27 percent and we've increased our local employment — remember this — by 77 percent. By 77 percent and he says there's something wrong with the program? Those people are going to be employed not only in the summertime but helping to process those products all year round and the Mexicans will go back to Mexico. They came in to help with the field crop work, the stoop labour. Mr. Chairman, I think the total facts have to be shown that the industry is growing, that the workers are working with the employers and the employees. He asked me the numbers; I gave them to him. During the last three years, 97 workers have been participated in various classroom training programs. Ninety-seven of them and 179 were employed on on-the-job training programs. Now if he's saying they're well enough trained or are they well enough trained, to say to the Mexican people, look, we don't need you any longer. I am sure that there are people as equally qualified as the Mexicans and that they will help employ or to train other Manitobans. I can't stand here today and specifically say that is the case because I think the situation that the member opposite put the farm community in, in Portage, as I again demonstrate the crops that were unable to be harvested. Because if they expand them, they have the crops, they have to have them harvested and if it's a matter of being supported by a few Mexicans to help the local trade, then I see nothing wrong with it and it's by agreement. It's by agreement of one of Mexican to four of Manitobans or Canadians, whereas in fact the actual ratio is one to eight. I think that's demonstrated time and time again that our programs are working and his weren't.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is trying to show statistically that there has been an improvement in terms of the involvement of offshore labour with our local labour. That isn't the case at all. What has happened in the Portage area is the addition of a huge food processor, namely McCains, who have just opened up in the last year and who are involved in a fairly substantial amount of acreage by contract or even direct production, I'm not sure about that, the latter point Mr. Chairman, but certainly by contract with producers in the Portage area which has added a tremendous expansionary feature to the vegetable industry of Portage la Prairie, Mr. Chairman, and indeed to the Province of Manitoba.

But we do have a chronic situation with respect to certain people that can be made suitable for employment within that industry in that area. It is that question, it is the structurally unemployed group that we have to provide training programs for, in order to get them more involved in the economy of the province, more involved in their local industry and to remove the dependency that we have on

foreign workers, Mr. Chairman. Surely the Minister isn't arguing against the principle of getting us to the point of self-sufficiency in manpower. I mean, that'll be ludicrous, Mr. Chairman. He knows that we have depended and it's true by agreement, I recall the first agreement. I recall a confrontation between the Workers Association in Portage la Prairie and the Growers Association in Portage la Prairie several years ago. The growers didn't want to sign an agreement, a wage package agreement because they felt that would set a precedent for all of Canada or all of North America for that matter in terms of farm labour and management relations on this continent and they were advised and they took the advice of legal people who said to them, don't do it, don't sign a formal agreement on hours of work, on rate of pay per hour — each one do his own thing but don't have an agreement between the association of growers and the association of workers. They came within a hair of entering into such agreement until their legal advisers told them not to do it because it would be precedent setting. It would change the whole psychology of labour-management relations in agriculture for North America, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I happen to believe that the legal opinion they received was correct — that had they signed that agreement it would have altered the whole relationship for all of this continent eventually. But I believe it was the right direction to go because it gave each side a bargaining position. What is the management's role, what is labour's role, what is their relationship, what is their worth? These are all important things that are taken for granted amongst working people and amongst employers generally speaking in Canada, in North America. But we have not yet reached the stage where it does include agricultural workers and I think it's time it did. Now we were heading in that direction and at that particular time the employers threw up their hands, refused to sign that agreement and said to me we want Mexican labour; we're not going to waste our time with our own local people and my answer to that it's true, the Minister is right. My answer to them was that if you have concurrence by the Workers' Association that you can bring in Mexican labour and the numbers are concurred in, then I'll go along with it but until you have such concurrence we cannot condone that kind of thing. We must have an improved labour-management arrangement within Manitoba with Manitobans.

Mr. Chairman, they did strike an agreement, I believe the first one was 18 Mexicans they agreed to would come into the Portage area — that was an agreement between the Workers' Association and the Employers' Association. But now we're up to 35 and I say to the Minister we should be down to zero. We should be down to zero on the basis that there should be training dollars put into that area to make sure that our local people are fully equipped to take every job that is offered in that area, Mr. Chairman. That's the direction that we ought to be going. Now, I'm not saying that they shouldn't have these 35 Mexicans if they're not at that stage but if the Minister would at least be in a position to tell us he has 10 people now that he is training so that we can reduce that figure next year or the year after instead of coming back a year from now telling me that they're now up to 50 Mexicans and two years from

now up to 100 Mexicans and so on — that's the path he's on, Mr. Chairman. Heavens, we have hundreds of people out there that are unemployed, chronically unemployed so to speak, that have to be trained and I'm sure sufficient numbers of them are willing to be trained if they're given the opportunity. So again I ask the Minister how many are being specifically trained in order to reduce our dependency on foreign labour?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I find it most interesting that the member would go on a debate that would say that we should totally work towards the elimination of offshore people. Certainly it is our desire to see all of Manitoba and Canadian people working in the vegetable industry and in fact in all our industries. But the facts are that we have created employment for those very people, expanded the employment opportunities through the program that we're working on. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, I have given the numbers to the Member for Lac du Bonnet, the increases. Those are jobs in the vegetable industry, not in the continuation of some of the processing and some of the other plants. This is pretty well a farmer-employer type worker that we are talking about.

So we are in fact expanding the employment opportunities for those people who are looking for jobs and, Mr. Chairman, I have also indicated the numbers of people that are being trained. Some of those people who are being trained possibly want to move on into an advanced position and he is suggesting that we should tell them that they shouldn't, that they should replace that stoop labour group that are coming in from Mexico, that we should not allow advancement by our local people; we should just say, "This is what your job is — you sit there and cut celery all summer, that's your job. You shouldn't advance to a management job or advance to a better job within the plants." That is what he is telling us, Mr. Chairman. He is saying, "You have reached your level; you are no more than replacing those people." That, Mr. Chairman, is exactly what he is telling us. It is developing, Mr. Chairman, people to advance into the different areas of the processing industry and I am proud of that, Mr. Chairman. He is saying we are allowing people in and we should be keeping our people at that level so that they could just cut the celery or the cabbages in the field.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that these workers, by agreement, the employers, by agreement, have indicated their desire to continue on with the types of programs that are being available to them.

I have another point that he raised that I have serious concern over. I think that there are too many people in society today that it's not a job that they are after, and work, it's very easy to be unemployed if you want to be selective. But I would have to say there are many jobs in this country, particularly in the agricultural community, that are available to people but people don't want a job with work. They want employment, Mr. Chairman. So when we hear all this gobbledegook about unemployment statistics, Mr. Chairman, I think we really have to take a look at the definition of what employment and what jobs really mean, because a job in most cases, to me, means working, putting productivity into the system and getting paid for that productivity.

I think, Mr. Chairman, there has to be a total assessment made by Canadian people, because we are sitting in a country with unlimited resources, with a population of some 23,000,000 to 24,000,000 people and our dollar is less valued than that of the United States or the countries that have not got the resources or the opportunities that we have. I think it boils down, Mr. Chairman, to one word, and that is productivity and desire and pride to get on with the job of doing things. There are a tremendous amount of employment opportunities and we have to get on with the job of creating the environment as a government, as we have done. The example is shown right in the Portage la Prairie vegetable industry where we can see that kind of activity take place.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister would at least be prepared to table with this committee — it doesn't have to be today, the next day or tomorrow — the numbers of people who are trained in this program, the specific training activity they are involved in, and the career path that training is going to take them into, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe, in fact I know, that the Minister has been skirting the issue since this debate began. I know we have got extension training. We have had that from the beginning of the days of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman, but nothing specific that would zero in on this kind of a problem. It seems to me that there is a lot of logic in using some money from his department, along with Federal Manpower money, if they have it, or even without it, Mr. Chairman, even without it, to zero in on this area of chronic unemployment, underemployment, and to get those people more involved, Mr. Chairman, in the economic activities of our province and thereby reducing more and more the dependency on other people having to come in from outside to fill these positions.

I think this example can be illustrated not only in the vegetable industry, but we're not debating the other parts of our economy, Mr. Chairman. We have all of Northern Manitoba which is in the same dilemma. If you go to Thompson, as an example, and I hope you don't mind the aside, Mr. Chairman, you find that you will have someone from Montreal or Newfoundland that fills your car up with gasoline at the gas station. There is nothing wrong with that. But you will also find that there are tens of thousands of people in that Thompson area who are totally unemployed and are very seldom employed. They have structural unemployment, Mr. Chairman, in that whole region, and that has to be addressed, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that we can keep turning a blind eye to the fact that we have a growing population that is growing its dependency on society for ever and ever, and that's what is going on, Mr. Chairman. We are simply saying to the people in the southern reserves, to the people in the northern reserves that they are not part of our economic system. Maybe we are wanting them to volunteer themselves more readily but unfortunately that is not the way it is happening, Mr. Chairman. I think there has to be a greater understanding of the problem and a greater desirability on our part to involve more and more and more of those people in the mainstream of the economy. I don't believe that an argument can be made that it cannot be done. I believe that it may be expensive in the interim

period, Mr. Chairman, but it seems to me that we are looking for disaster if we keep on ignoring that problem, if we keep on turning the other way, looking for more simple solutions, the short cut solutions for the immediate, but disastrous for the future, Mr. Chairman.

The numbers game is obvious. We know the population that we are talking about and we know their growth rate relative to the rest of the population and it seems to me that we are in the process of putting these young people through school in every one of these reserves in Southern Manitoba and Northern Manitoba. They now at least come out with an education. They come out with an education with no place to go with it, Mr. Chairman, or at least we are not doing enough to try to get them involved so that they have full participation in the economic process.

I know that I am oversimplifying it, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that it is an easy thing to tackle, but I think it has to be tackled. The more we say, well, as long as we can get Mexican labour, we don't have to worry about a training program, the more we aggravate that age-old program, Mr. Chairman, and it is a human problem; those people are citizens of Manitoba and they ought to be fully involved. But I don't think they are going to be fully involved unless there is some initiative. There is less of an initiative on the part of the Minister of Agriculture, the part of the Treasury Branch across the way, Mr. Chairman, in all departments. Just how long do we go on ignoring that those people exist and how long do we keep depending on bringing in labour input? You know, we should be training those people to do everything that we have need to be done, but it isn't being done, Mr. Chairman, we give a lot of lip service to it. The Minister will give me all kinds of fancy statistics, but he will not give me the answer, Mr. Chairman.

So I ask the Minister whether he would be prepared to give me a list of all of the job training that he is involved in — on-site, off-site classroom, and whether he would care to give me the list of the people that are involved in the job training, Mr. Chairman. It would be interesting to know, follow the roots, if you like, to know what he is talking about, because he's talking circles, Mr. Chairman, he is not facing the reality.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

**HON. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As the Minister said just a little while ago, with the red herrings that are being brought up, it would really have to be something. We're basically talking here about 29 people, as I understand, brought in, —(Interjection)— well 35, that's quite a large number of people and the reason that these people that are coming in from offshore, of course, is just from one simple reason, the harvesting of perishable products. Even the former Minister of Agriculture could recall, it was probably 2 or 3 years ago, the picture of the empty bus coming in at the peak of a harvest season without a soul on it.

Now you can talk about training and whatever you may want to do, but it certainly is now holding here, certainly. What's happening, you're talking about

jobs, but there's one thing he's forgetting about - where there's a job there's some work involved and every once in a while it gets to be heavy work and that's kind of against some of the principles of some of the people and his government, his government did more to develop tier upon tier of people that were going to rely on the social programs of this province, probably than anyone else ever did or any government ever did.

So I don't think that the former Minister has any grounds whatever to sit and talk about what is going on. Certainly this government is spending \$5.5 million expanding the Assiniboine College in Brandon for \$6 million. We're out to train the people but again, as I said before, these are jobs and there is work involved with them and that's basically what's going on and it isn't because the people of Portage la Prairie that are involved in the vegetable industry want to hire outside, but they do want a continuity of supply, something that they can rely upon. And anyone that has farmed knows very well that there is a time to do certain jobs and if you don't do it you're going to take a bath and you're going to lose a lot of money. So you've got to have some insurance that the thing is going to work for you and this basically is what's going on. I'm sure that whoever is hiring at Portage wouldn't be hiring offshore labour if there was someone else there to do the job.

So I think the former Minister has gone out of his way to make a mountain out of a molehill. The program is in place, the Minister has quoted what is going on. We are training more and more people all of the time. The job is being done and certainly as more and more technology comes in, more and more equipment comes in that will do the job, the training that these people are receiving now they will be able to utilize and this is what will happen. But its a transitional period, probably from hand labour, and there's some that you can't get away from hand labour, you're going to have to do it.

So I think, Mr. Chairman, that we have dwelled on this for quite a length of time. I think the Minister has answered the former Ministers and I can understand his frustrations and he has been reasonably fair. He isn't like the Leader of the Opposition, he doesn't just gloat when something is going wrong but he does come forth with a little bit of constructive criticism so that is a big bouquet for the former Minister and that's probably the only one he'll get this year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I think if the member reflects on his own comments he will find out that what he has illustrated for us merely confirms what I've been saying, merely confirms what I've saying. What I've been saying, Mr. Chairman, is that you can't turn the other way and not deal with the problem. That's what I've been saying as well. So you can't throw up your hands and say we're just going to ask more Mexicans to come into Manitoba as our industry grows. You have to bear down, Mr. Chairman, and you have to train our own people and it may be expensive dollars initially to do that job. But I believe in the long run it's dollars that are going to be well spent. I believe in the long run it will replace unemployment insurance dollars, it will replace welfare dollars perhaps first, but it's the kind

of thing we just have to face up to. We just cannot ignore that situation unless we are prepared to somehow accept the idea that there's that group of people in our society that just doesn't really count, that we're really not going to do too much for unless they are going to do it for themselves. We're not going to give them too much reason to become self-starters or to motivate themselves.

So what I'm talking about is really not all that vague. Mr. Chairman, it's a little bit of seed money to get the process well under way and some assurance that there is an overseer to make sure that the process continues. It's like the old story when we went into the Library Program and some people thought that the best way to have a successful library program is to put in a library where there are a lot of readers. My story of success is that if you can bring in a library to where there are no readers and you end up with 10 out of 100, that to me is a success story, if you're dealing with that kind of a situation, Mr. Chairman. So that is really what I'm getting at. We have to start dealing with that problem and I would hope that the government and I would hope that this Minister, before the next estimates are here — well it won't be this Minister probably, unless they don't proceed with an election, Mr. Chairman, but if they don't proceed with an election it may be this Minister — that when we come back here a year from now there is a program in place that is designed specifically to replace or to get away from the dependency of out-of-province, out-of-country labour, labourers, workers, etc. and that we have our own people that are capable of fulfilling all the positions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what we find on this side is the attitude. It's the attitude of this government that we find objectionable and we've heard it come from the Minister and we've heard it come from the member, true to form, it came out loud and clear from both members, the Minister, the Member for Gladstone, trying to make the point that there are jobs there, but there are people who don't want to work. They are leaving an inference that native people — and that's primarily the people, let's be honest, this is the people we're talking about — there are people, there are natives out there who do not want to work. That is the attitude of these two members that just spoke, the Minister and the Member for Gladstone, and that is the attitude that we object to. It's almost a bit racist. It's almost a bit racist, Mr. Chairman and it's not consistent, Mr. Chairman . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister on a point of order.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I think the record speaks for itself, what the Member from Gladstone and what I have said. We have not made any inference towards any group of people. We're talking about an agriculture training program and if that Member for Ste. Rose is to continue on in that path of what he's saying, putting on the record things that we have said which is, in fact, untrue, untrue, then we will call him exactly what he is, not only in this

Chamber but we will campaign and demonstrate to the people of his constituency, how he's trying to mislead, not only in his constituency as he's done in every . . . but right here in this House. And I would ask him, Mr. Chairman, to try and not put words in the mouths in the Member from Gladstone or myself. We will do our own speaking for ourselves. Thank you very much.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** You did not rule, Mr. Chairman, whether that was a point of order or not.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If you're waiting for a ruling please be seated and I'll make a ruling. I think that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture has certainly stated his views as I would understand that the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose is stating his and a difference of views, a difference of opinion does not constitute a point of order. The remarks were received from both sides, but a point of order isn't because of a difference of opinion.

The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, I suspected that that was how you would rule, fairly on that particular issue because the Minister did not have a point of order. He clearly inferred. We know who we are talking about here, we know the people who go to Portage and work in the vegetable producing areas, we know who they are. And we're talking about a group of people who have a difficult time to assimilate into our society, to get into the mainstream of things, that's the group we're talking about. And all the Member for Lac du Bonnet is saying, give them a chance, let's back over little further to see if we can't do something.

I wish this government and these members of that government will be consistent. They are crying constantly that we should become self-sufficient on energy, but they don't want to become self-sufficient when it comes to labour. And I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that it's the attitude and the attitude is, Mr. Chairman, that we should have a certain amount of labour coming from offshore, from Mexico, cheap labour, if you will, cheap labour so that we keep our own people in line. That's the nub of the question, that's the nub of the question, Mr. Chairman. But it's the attitude and the inference that there are people out here, jobs are there and they won't take the work. Now The Member for Gladstone said it, the Minister said it and we know who they're talking about. They didn't spell it out in so many words but we know. We know who they're referring to, Mr. Chairman.

But I wanted to ask the Minister on another question in regard to the training program. If he does not want to bring in a program, as suggested by The Member for Lac du Bonnet, to try and get some of these people to replace those people that we have to bring in from offshore and become self-sufficient, if you will, the same as we want to become self-sufficient in energy. Let's become self-sufficient, employ our own people, give them a chance, give them the encouragement that they require to try and get into the mainstream of society here in Manitoba. I am sure that if the Minister reflects on the position

that he is taking here today and last year and the year before he will come to the conclusion that we are not trying to mislead him or misquote him; that we are sincere; that we want to try and do our utmost to get these people into the mainstream of society.

But I want to ask the Minister on the training. How much training those people who were in charge of the field people, who were in charge of administering the Draught Program, the Greedfeed Program and the Transportation Program, how much training did those people out in the field, calling on farmers, individual farmers, how much training or instruction did they receive in order that they be qualified to deal with the public? And I want to know if the Minister is satisfied with the job that has been done generally and if he has received any complaints from any particular area where there is a consistent amount of complaints coming out from a specific area. I'd like to have the Minister's view on that. How many people were employed and how were they hired, were they on contract? Are they permanent employees or what? I wish the Minister would give us an overview of what happened here. Is he satisfied with all the people that were out? Were they doing a satisfactory job? Has he been receiving . . .? I wrote the Minister one letter on one particular case and I haven't received a reply from him and I'm hoping that he will and I'm sure he will when he has time. We're going into his estimates now and he hasn't had time perhaps but I am sure that he will reply whenever he has a chance. But nevertheless we have had some criticism and I understand the criticism that I have received has been coming from one particular area and I would like the Minister to enlighten us on what's happened.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, to answer the question as briefly as possible and provide the Member with the information, I am generally satisfied. He asked me if I was and I am generally satisfied with the operations of the field staff. They were hired on a per diem basis as normal inspectors are hired through crop insurance. The crop insurance adjusters were put through the same basic adjusting program that the full-time adjusters have. To help support the crop insurance staff we had an additional 75 field staff and to administer the Greenfeed Program the field staff for the crop insurance were 75 and additional head office staff of 7; with the Greenfeed Program we had a field staff of some 81, with 8 head office people.

**MR. ADAMS:** Yes I thank the Minister for that information. He did not really clarify if he had received any particular complaints. I know I have given him some particular individual cases and there may be more forthcoming. He didn't reply on that particular complaint. But I know that when I was asking him about whether or not he had received any complaints he turned around and pointed to the Member for Gladstone and I am wondering whether he was trying to indicate that he had received complaints from the Member for Gladstone or was he inferring that the problem area was in the Gladstone district or the office there. I'm not sure, I wish the Minister would clarify what he was trying to indicate to me by pointing to the Member for Gladstone and also whether or not he has received

any complaints other than the one that I brought to his attention.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in answering, I said in a general way I was satisfied with the operation of the field staff.

**MR. ADAM:** But there was some complaints.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Well, I guess, Mr. Chairman, we would have to say that there were a few complaints, but I would have to say I had a lot more compliments about the way the staff handled the program and the program itself than we had complaints. There were a few difficulties but I would say, in a general sense, I would think the farm community was satisfied in the way the program was handled. I had one or two specific constituency concerns that were brought to my attention directly but, and a few of the other MLAs and the reason I was pointing to the Member for Gladstone, basically, was to indicate to you that he was my Legislative Assistant and I would refer to him if he had any comments to make, if he had any constituents because he has done quite a number of constituency duties, not only within his constituency, but to the one that lies north of him. He had to help with a meeting up there and I'm sure if he had any additional information he could put it on the record. But the answer to the question is there have been very few complaints, but there have been some. But a lot more positive people saying that they appreciated the program and that it worked to their satisfaction.

**MR. ADAM:** Thank you. Just briefly and then I'll sit down and allow the Member from Portage to comment, I think he wants to comment on the previous topic. Some of the problems that we have in receiving, if I might bring to the Minister's attention, was I don't think some of the farmers were clearly advised about the deadline for the qualification of certain crops; they had to be seeded after June 20th, I believe, I'm not sure just what the date was, but I think that there wasn't enough instructions given to the farmers who were involved. In fact, I have received a number of complaints where some of the people who did get into the program had seeded prior to the deadline. In fact, there were two cases, I believe, brought to my attention in Minnedosa and there were some in the Ste. Rose constituency, Mr. Chairman. They got in the program even though they shouldn't have got in. That is why I brought the entire matter up, as to whether there had been sufficient training for the field staff on how to deal with people in the first place. You need a bit of public relations when you're dealing with the public. I'm sure you all are aware of that and some people are better public relations people than others. It's important because you can turn people off, you can upset them by just a few words and that's the area that I was asking.

Another problem that arose, and I'm not going to mention the names but I did get in touch with the Minister on this particular case, and it was if the farmer could qualify for the program. He asked is it okay if I can pasture this particular field and he was advised that he could. He had seeded after the June 20th deadline, I think it was, and he was advised that he could qualify for assistance under this Greenfeed

Program. When he did run out of feed and pasture he turned his cattle into this field and when he came to collect they said, oh well, I'm sorry you can't collect. You can't collect because you have put your cattle in there.

So you know these are the kind of problems that are coming and I'm trying to assist the Minister so that we have satisfied people out there. You know I think the problem arises out of the field people and the farmer, that's where the problem comes in. Were they not sufficiently instructed when they went out just what the guidelines were? Because you know there was enough confusion with these two programs to drive many farmers up the wall; the federal and the provincial one. They were so confused they didn't know whether they were coming or going. I'm sure that you'll agree with me, particularly on the Federal program. I don't expect you to believe me on the provincial program, but it was there anyway. There was a lot of confusion. So I bring this to the Minister's attention in all sincerity, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

**MR. LLOYD G. HYDE (Portage la Prairie):** Mr. Chairman, I'm glad that I came into the House just when I did to catch the tail end of the discussion that has taken place here but I was sitting in the other Committee. I am anxious to respond to some of the comments that the Member for Ste. Rose has brought forward. He's saying that we need to give the native people a chance. Mr. Chairman, in the Portage la Prairie district the vegetable growers and farmers of that particular area have for many, many years given the native people of the area the opportunity of being part of our labour force in that particular area. We also, for many years, have had training programs held right in Portage la Prairie, Mr. Chairman, to encourage and educate the native people of that particular area, to assist in the labour demands of the area.

Now we've taken, through the Provincial-Federal program, we've supplied the labour force with a housing program that has allowed \$1,000 per grower to assist the native people with the proper housing facilities that are needed. Mr. Chairman, I don't think for one minute that the local labour force is being ill-treated by the practice of bringing in offshore labour when that labour force is required. The ratio of 4 to 1, as I understand, is part of that program, the ratio is 4 to 1. Now the local growers, as I understand, with the exception of one has accepted this program and has agreed to the 4 to 1 ratio. I may be mistaken when I say, with the exception of one. I'll have to correct myself, I believe that the 4 prominent vegetable growers in the Portage area have all agreed to the 4 to 1 ratio and are willing to comply by that. But to think the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose is giving the House the idea that we are not giving the labour forces the opportunity, the fair opportunity is all folly, it's all folly. Mr. Chairman, as I say, I'm glad I got this opportunity just to express my concerns as what has been brought to the attention of the Committee this afternoon.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1) pass; (2) pass; (3) pass The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd like some clarification in terms of the Canada-Manitoba

Training Plan Agreement that has been in existence over the years and I just raise that in terms of the information supplied, Mr. Chairman, as I'm looking at the Annual Report as to who actually decides on what allowances are to be paid to workers on course and how many courses are still continuing. Some have ended, some have been dropped. What are we really talking about in terms of the Canada-Manitoba Training Agreement, Mr. Chairman, where is that program at?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DOWNEY:** The main part of the program is controlled by the Canada Manpower group but there is consultation and input from our staff, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. URUSKI:** I understand that, Mr. Chairman, that the monies are primarily through Canada Manpower. What is the process, consultative process that you go through? Does the province have any say in terms of the priorities of courses and how are the courses handled and what is being offered in terms of programs? I am getting the impression from the Annual Report that there's been a drop off in terms of funds toward training programs. And by the statements many courses were cancelled and others were shortened in length, in terms of courses under the CMTP. Elimination of training allowances for self-employed people affected attendance on agriculture CMTP courses, Mr. Chairman. That did happen in fact, in terms of change. Was that a negotiated change and what was the province's position toward these kinds of courses in their negotiations with the Federal Government?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Basically, the department can recommend course content, location and who can participate, but the delivery of the program, and further questioning of this, would probably be more appropriate to the Minister of Labour and Manpower who is responsible for the delivery of the specific programs with Canada Manpower.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Yes. Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the answer that the Minister has given but, I'm sorry

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DOWNEY:** I have a correction to make, Mr. Chairman. Just sitting next to the Minister of Education, he indicates it's the Department of Education that have the delivery of it and Manpower does the negotiating on the agreement with Canada Manpower.

**MR. URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, then what role is played by The Department of Agriculture in course content and the like? Can the Minister outline the range that is being proposed for this coming year in terms of various courses? Will there be assistance offered in certain areas to people under the training program or has that gone completely by the

wayside? If it has gone by the wayside what has it been replaced by? What are the alternatives that are offered to rural students in terms of any financial assistance of mature students and the like who may want to upgrade their skills in certain areas?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Well as I indicated, Mr. Chairman, that question would better be asked of the Minister of Education or of Manpower. We have no specific assistance programs within the Department of Agriculture for such type of program.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hour is 4:30. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour and Committee will resume at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

**MR. SPEAKER:** We're now under Private Members' Hour. The first item of business is Resolution No. 4. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 4 - MINIMUM WAGE

**MR. JAY COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan that

WHEREAS the minimum wage in Manitoba has been increased by only 6.4 cents since September 1st, 1976, while at the same time the cost of living has increased by 43 percent, and

WHEREAS this reduced standard of living for the working poor creates severe hardship for thousands of Manitobans and their families, and

WHEREAS changes in the minimum wage structure imposed by the Conservative Government have created an artificial inequity between certain minimum wage earners in difference occupations, and

WHEREAS there is an obvious need for a complete review for those minimum wage policies which are creating these hardships and inequities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government immediately place the matter of minimum wage structures before Legislative Committee for the purpose of designing and implementing an equitable formula for increasing the minimum wage in a systematic and orderly manner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government immediately raise the minimum wage to a level that will accurately reflect increases in the cost of living since the last increase in the minimum wage and that it continue to do so every three months until such a time as a permanent formula is implemented.

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I approach this debate with an overwhelming sense of déjà vu having participated in debates on this resolution or similarly worded resolutions over the past number of years — (Interjection) — every year as the Member for Emerson points out, and we've had to do that every year because of the intransigence of the Government in dealing with this very complex and

complicated matter in any sort of a systematic, comprehensive and orderly way. There has even been some suggestion from members of this House, and other sources, that I reword this particular resolution in light of the recent announcements by the Provincial Government. Those announcements, as you are aware, did provide for an increase in the minimum wage, an increase which we suggest did not go far enough.

I have to reject those suggestions because I believe, firstly, that this resolution goes beyond any one specific increase or any period of time where an increase does not take place. It addresses the entire issue of how the minimum wage is increased; who should come under the provisions of the minimum wage; and how the minimum wage should be structured. And for those who would want to carry the Committee work to its logical conclusion, one would even have to discuss the benefits and the disadvantages of a minimum wage itself. So we reject the suggestions that the recent announcement has made our resolution redundant.

It is also necessary to point out, Mr. Speaker, that we believe that the recent changes were far too little and far too late to have any sort of a significant effect on the minimum wage earner in this province. Those increases, quite frankly, were a disappointment to the New Democratic Party. But while they were a disappointment to us, they were an insult to the minimum wage earner in this province, an insult to the low wage earner in this province. That was an increase that has been categorically rejected by those who should know best. And I need only quote you the spokesperson from the Winnipeg Social Planning Council who, when referring to the increase, said that it is better than nothing — and those are his words — which it is. But also said, but it doesn't do much to alleviate the increase in the cost of living — which it doesn't. And those are our sentiments, exactly. It is an increase the Minister of Labour has called a middle-of-the-road increase. Well we reject that description as well. It only looks middle of the road when compared to the stingy record of the Lyon Government over the last 3 years. So let the record be clear on the recent increases. The New Democratic Party does not accept the recent increases as being either acceptable, fair nor middle of the road. They do not reflect the increases in the Consumer Price Index; they will result in a reduced standard of living for the working poor and low wage earners; and they will not meet the anticipated increases in inflation, which only serves to compound an already despicable record. Nor do those changes provide for systematic increases in the minimum wage in order to meet inflationary pressures and to keep up with the demands of the inflationary cycle.

So we proceed with the resolution, not in spite of the recent announcements which we believe only called for inadequate and poorly conceived increases in the minimum wage, but we proceed with it because partly of that announcement and because of the record of the Lyon Government of the past 3 years. We do have to address the issue in this debate of the recent change because I believe those changes, and the changes that have been put before us over the past number of years, provide a great deal of insight into the government strategy, the

manifestation of their conservative ideology which I believe views the minimum wage earner and the well-being of the wage earner in general as an impediment to their goals, rather than a legitimate quest of a government. It betrays their efforts to create a low wage economy. Through using the minimum wage earner and the low wage earner they abuse the working poor in order to dampen wage demands throughout the low wage sector. And that, of course, has a corresponding effect on the entire wage structure. So what they have attempted and what they have succeeded in doing at the expense of tens of thousands of low wage earners and their families is to use the minimum wage earner as a vehicle to dampen wage demands throughout the entire sector.

Furthermore, in order to understand the need for this resolution and the measures which it calls for such as the examination of the two-tier system, whereby employees working in an industry where they serve liquor have a lesser minimum wage than do other employees, a two-tier system that the government initiated last year. Because it wants to examine that, because it wants also to provide a public form for public participation so that those members of society who are interested in this particular matter can come forward and discuss and examine the government's actions on the minimum wage as well as the entire concept of minimum wage, how it should be structured and how it should be increased. Because it does that we believe it still to be necessary again without that necessity having been lessened because of the recent announcements.

There are serious and recurring questions which surround the whole issue of the minimum wage and perhaps that is one of the reasons that we have had to discuss this issue each year during the past 3 years. Even the present Minimum Wage Board is not of one mind on the subject of the minimum wage. And I have to point out that in the press release that emanated from the Minister's Department at the time of the announcement of the increase, the Minister highlighted the fact that this decision was an unanimous decision of the Minimum Wage Board. He highlighted it because I think he wanted to leave the expression of unanimity on the part of the Minimum Wage Board in regard to this increase in order to validate and substantiate this increase. Granted it was an unanimous decision, there is no quarrel with that, but the Minister has forgotten to tell us the other half of the story. The Minister has forgotten to point out that there was a minority report which accompanied the Minimum Wage Board Report, which outlines several concerns of at least 2 members of that 5-member board. The Minister has made no mention of that and one has to wonder why it is that he has neglected to inform the public of the existence of that minority report.

So he having neglected to inform the public of the existence of that minority report, we find it necessary at this time to outline some of the contents of that minority report. Mr. Speaker, it called for future increases based on a percentage figure of the industrial composite weekly wage and it recommended as a target figure 60 percent of that wage. —(Interjection)— Well, the Member for St. Vital says it sounds reasonable. It is something that

we have brought before the House on a number of occasions because we felt that it sounded reasonable and yet it was rejected. And the Minister will also, as he has in the past, tell us well it was your government that rejected the unanimous decision of the Minimum Wage Board to make that sort of a formula structure legislatively mandated. Well the fact is that when the Minister reviews the record of the 8 years of the New Democratic Party administration he will discover that we started out with a minimum wage that was less than 50 percent of the average weekly earnings in this province and had increased it step by step, systematically in what I consider to be a responsible way, to a figure of 54.9 percent or approximately 55 percent of the minimum wage. Now one can only conjecture as to what would have happened, or even if we would have proceeded with that process to the point where it reached a level of 60 percent of the minimum wage, but the fact is that we were trying to, in a systematic way, increase the minimum wage as a percentage of the average industrial composite wage and may, in fact, have institutionalised it at a 60 percent figure when we had accomplished that first goal.

The Minority Report also calls for the elimination of a separate minimum wage for employees serving liquor. They urge that elimination because they suggest, and I would have to agree with them, that the government has not been able to provide any proof to either us or to the public or to those affected employees that that device, the two-tier minimum wage is being used for anything more than a device to lower wages, to cheapen labour costs for a particular sector of the economy. So they call for review of that. And without placing a value judgment on that two-tier system, that is one of the items which we call for as a subject of review for our committee. Thirdly, the Minority Report asks that The Employment Standards Act be amended to apply to persons involved in agriculture, fishing, fur farming, dairy farming and those persons who are involved in growing horticultural goods and market gardening. Those persons are presently excluded from the provisions of The Employment Standards Act and therefore do not have any of the advantages of the protection of that Act, nor do they have a mandated or a legislatively mandated minimum wage for their work. So the Minority Report called for the removal of that inequity.

Those are some of the very areas, and those are the 3 main areas that the Minority Report addressed itself to, those are some of the very areas which we believe would be the legitimate concerns of the type of committee we request through this resolution and through this debate. So the record is clear. We are not alone in our criticism, in our rejection of the Lyon Government policies of minimum wage and their refusal to allow the minimum wage to increase so that it can keep pace with cost of living increases and inflation, that we know from the comments of the Winnipeg Social Planning Council. Nor are we alone in our call for a better, a more systematic and hopefully a fairer method of ensuring that minimum wage earners are not abused by any government, regardless of their political stripe, regardless of the ideologies and irrespective of their dogmas. It has to be said that we accept that there are differences of opinion as to the advantages and disadvantages of

the minimum wage. And these are discussed and debated from time to time in this House and elsewhere. We carry our own ideas and we have our own philosophy and we have our own arguments which support one viewpoint over another viewpoint, but we do recognize that there is room for honest people to differ when discussing this complex subject.

So we have called for a committee. A committee of which, by the way, they — and when I say “they” I mean the Conservative Government — would have a majority of members, at least for a short while more. We call for that committee to examine the entire subject of the minimum wage debate; to reflect on some of the specifics; to discuss the generalities; and to allow full public access to that debate which I believe is in the finest traditions of this House and this Legislature. I suspect that they will in fact reject this approach to solving this problem. That suspicion I believe is well-founded on last year’s amendments and we discussed a similar type of committee and the request that we made last year which was rejected by them at that time. So we have to examine why it is they are going to most likely reject what can only be described as a moderate course of action. This resolution was written as a moderate course of action to allow acceptance by moderate people so that we can discuss the situation in an open form. It could be said that they’re not a moderate government and there’s probably some truth to the statement. They are indeed trapped in their own ideology and victim of their own dogma when discussing the subject of the minimum wage, but I believe their rejection of this, or their possible rejection and their rejection last year of this sort of moderate approach to the problem, goes beyond that obvious failing of theirs, that obvious failing being trapped in an outdated ideology.

I think, as do others, that they are afraid of this resolution and the committee that it requests because they are well aware that while that Committee is examining that entire subject of minimum wage the committee will also be examining their actions for the past 3 years. And those actions have worked to the disadvantage of the minimum wage earner and the low wage earner in this province. Those actions, in my opinion, have been an abject and total failure and they don’t want the public to know that. They don’t want the public to know how seriously they have eroded a standard of living for low wage earners. But the record is clear. When the Conservatives took office the minimum wage, as a percentage of average weekly wages, was well over 50 percent. As a matter of fact, at the time of the last increase under a New Democratic Party Government, as I mentioned earlier, it had increased to 54.9 percent. It must be pointed out that when the New Democratic Party took government in 1969 that the minimum wage, as an average of the weekly wages, was less than 50 percent. It is not surprising that even with the recently announced changes that the minimum wage will probably only be brought to a level equal to approximately 44 percent of the average weekly wage. It’s much less than that right now. From 54.9 percent to less than 44 percent, probably closer to 43 percent. They don’t want the people of the province to be able to have their time to speak to that total failing of the government to

provide an adequate minimum below wage earners in this province.

And I might add that all things being equal, if the industrial wage increases as it has in the past, if inflation increases as it has in the past, that the next increase, which is due to take place in the fall, the increase after the one in March, will institutionalize the minimum wage at a level somewhere around 44 percent of the average industrial weekly wage. And that is their goal and that is what they don’t want the public to know.

Mr. Speaker, it’s always difficult in a Private Members’ Resolution debate to address the issue fully because of the time limitations and I note that my time is quickly running out. But I do want to make a couple of points.

No. 1, that as a percentage of the average industrial wage the minimum wage is reduced. But also, in comparison with the other provinces, the minimum wage earner in this province has lost an advantage which they had under the previous government. In September of 1976, again the time of the last change under the New Democratic Party government, we had the second highest minimum wage in the country. And now according to the Minister’s own admission we will have the fourth highest, and I would suggest that if other jurisdictions increase their minimum wage we may, in fact, be in a worse off position than that. As well, as the resolution states, while the minimum wage, even with the new increases, if we take the September increase and compare it to 1976, the minimum wage will only have increased by 20.34 percent. And we know that The Consumer Price Index in that period of time is going to have increased at over 50 percent; over 50 percent. So there’s no way that the low wage earner can keep up with the increases in the Consumer Price Index.

We can go on and on to explain how their actions so far have been a failure, however, with the short time permitted to me I think it is only necessary to call upon the Government to pursue what is obviously a moderate course of action and to provide for this committee to be called, to provide for the public to have access to this committee and to debate which are some very serious differences of opinion, but I believe differences of opinion that can be resolved through compromise and through an open, honest dialogue. That is all we are asking for is an open, honest dialogue on this subject. And I want to impress that upon the members opposite so that when they vote, if they vote against this resolution they know that they are voting against a moderate approach to the situation, are in fact voting to substantiate what can only be called their own ideological perspective in regard to the minimum wage. So I recommend the resolution to the House and I recommend the committee to the House and I hope that we can see this Government go back on their immoderate actions of the past 3 years and pursue a moderate course of action by adopting this resolution.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Churchill for his contributions to the debate. I thank him for bringing

this resolution before the members of the House, a resolution that has been debated here all the years that I've been in this Legislature on an annual basis and, if my memory serves me correctly, the other day I was going through some of the Journals and I think a Mr. Peters brought it in on the June before I arrived, in the spring session of 1966, asking for I think it was the minimum wage be increased to \$1.50 an hour in those days. When we were sitting on the Opposition benches again it was fair play for the Opposition to take potshots at the Government and use the minimum wage as the vehicle for the attack.

I looked at this resolution very carefully and I see in the first line that the honourable member has somehow got his percentages — the percentages I come up with are 6.8 not 6.4 so I likely will be amending that in the first clause there, Mr. Speaker. And he goes on in his remarks and lays it out fairly skillfully as to where the New Democratic Party sit with regard to this legislation. And I wonder why he didn't refer to when they were government and the Minimum Wage Board did bring in certain recommendations to the government of that day, and for some strange reason they were laid aside, Mr. Speaker, and set to one corner as if maybe it wasn't that important and yet they had the mantle of office, they had the mandate to carry out the wishes of their party and the people. But for some strange reason, Mr. Speaker, and I don't think that I've been espoused as to what it was but they laid it to one side, the recommendations from the Minimum Wage Board.

The other one, Mr. Speaker, I think the present Minister of Labour, who has indicated to the members of this House, at the last session of the Legislature, that he would convene the Minimum Wage Board for the purpose of reviewing this subject matter, the minimum wage, and report the recommendations to the Minister. And, of course, we have some of those results as evidenced in the changes that's already been made and announced in the province of the two-tier increases that are going to take effect. So I would have to stand up, first of all, and say, Mr. Speaker, that this Minister and this government has acted upon the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Board, and they have in fact implemented those increases as was proposed by the Minimum Wage Board. So I find it very difficult that the Member for Churchill has reason to complain that the Minister and the Government hasn't been acting wisely and using the jurisdiction of the Minimum Wage Board to be their guide.

I also, Mr. Speaker, happened to look through the editorial of the Winnipeg Free Press on the 23rd of January, and referred to the subject matter which is before us in debate and said that, in fact, the position that the Minister of Labour has taken on this matter is that it is a reasonable place to be, as fourth, I think was what the Member for Churchill said. It goes on in that editorial and points out, Mr. Speaker, that neither is it substantially less than is being offered by other provinces. The editor goes on to say Mr. Cowan is wrong if he thinks that the minimum wage in Ontario represents a better deal than it does in Manitoba. The editor goes on and says that Manitoba's minimum wage was last increased a year ago while the minimum wage in Ontario has remained unchanged at \$3.00 an hour

since January 1, 1979. So Manitoba has reached a fairly stable benchmark in this subject matter.

Then, of course, we go into the debate as to what the minimum wage is supposed to do and what it is not supposed to do and that is a subject, as the Member for Churchill has mentioned in his remarks, one that is debatable and there is a wide variance of opinion as to what takes place when we increase the minimum wage. Of course the editor of the Free Press in his editorial refers to the two Carleton University professors under the aegis of the Economic Council of Canada who, in the research on public policy, claimed that the minimum wages, if they are set too high, can actually reduce the number of jobs available, particularly for teenagers who are already among the lowest paid workers.

Of course, in the end the editor ends up his column with a very, I thought, encouraging remark when he said that Manitoba's new rate strikes a reasonable balance. I think that is a fair comment for us and a fair position for the province to take in this matter at this time. We are certainly not one of the great industrial giants of Canada, but nevertheless we are about midway in the continent and we are midway in the economic spectrum of the provinces.

I have constituents who write me letters from time to time on minimum wage. I have had a lot of correspondence in the last while from a school teacher in Ethelbert who provided me with all kinds of information, pointing out, of course, that we shouldn't be using the minimum wage formula at all, and he gives me all kinds of literature here and backup material from various professors in American colleges to substantiate his position on the matter. In fact, he said that you push wages beyond the marginal productivity of labour and the result is unemployment, is one of his comments. He says it doesn't matter here, in another column, whether the minimum wage is \$3.50 or \$10.00 an hour, the result will be the curtailment of production, especially of marginal producers, or the complete shut-down of marginal firms. That's the opinion of gentlemen like my learned friend from Ethelbert.

Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage certainly is an entry wage into the labour force for those who have never worked before, we could maybe say, or who have had little or no training or experience. So it does set a base at that level, for young people who decide that they don't want to continue in school any farther and enter the labour force, or some who are working part-time, attending school in the daytime and working in the evenings or afternoons part-time, and possibly the woman who is entering the workplace after raising a family. So it is a benchmark for people like that. Some people call it a training type of wage; as persons gain in their abilities and they gain in their skills and confidence and experience, then of course their wages usually increase as their ability improves.

It also, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, insures that people aren't exploited. In my opinion, I don't think the minimum wage was ever meant as a lifelong sort of wage for the experienced worker who has a family at home to support.

The other position, I think, and I would agree with the editor of the Free Press who said that likely Manitoba's best position to be in the minimum wage schedule is in the middle of the road, and

traditionally, I think that is the position that we have followed in the province. It has fluctuated up and down, as the Member for Churchill mentioned, to a higher scale sometime, but we certainly don't want it to be too low on the other hand to be ridiculous, nor do we want the wage to be too high because then it will become a deterrent to hiring new staff, especially for the smaller industries. If a minimum wage is too high, then some employers naturally will be reluctant to hire anyone unless they are experienced, and if they can't hire an experienced, trained worker for a dollar more or whatever, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, they say that that person wouldn't fit the bill.

The other problem, of course, is what to do with the part-time employment field for the high school students or the university students during the summer months. I suppose there are some studies which conclude, as my friend from Ethelbert points out, that the higher minimum wage dampens the job creation possibilities. Yet the Member for Churchill and certain members of the House profess from time to time that they are concerned about employment, and I certainly am concerned about the high unemployment rates that we are experiencing in Canada today, but I wonder just how we can straddle the fence in this — we certainly can't be the highest and we can't be the lowest — but as the editorial writer in the Free Press said, Manitoba is in a reasonable position in this matter.

If tying the minimum wage formula was such a great idea when the members opposite were government, then I wonder why they didn't implement it during their term of office. So it must have been it wasn't accepted for some reason. Moreover, even our neighbours to the west in Saskatchewan, who are considered to be of a socialist frame of mind, they have stopped implementing a minimum wage formula along those lines, as I understand it. I don't know why they took that initiative, possibly because, Mr. Speaker, the government has realized that it is not the right thing to go, or maybe it's not the sensible thing, but it is, Mr. Speaker, worth considering.

The Minimum Wage Board, of course, increase that was recommended last year, was a unanimous decision of the board, as was pointed out by the Honourable Member for Churchill, and that board, of course, has both employer and employee representatives on the board, so it is a fair cross-section of our province, of the employer and the employee. And regardless of who you put on that board, I suppose it will be debatable as to who these persons are and what their background is, which way they think, whether they figure there should be a middle-of-the-road policy, take the high road or take the low road.

The Province of Quebec used to have a wage formula but apparently they abandoned it because it was claimed it was hurting the competitive position of businesses in Quebec. Of course, that costs jobs, is the other aspect of it.

It is also ironic, Mr. Speaker, that in light of the effects on job creation and the economy by a high minimum wage, that the NDP would have the nerve and the audacity to try and force emergency debate on the health of Manitoba's economy; I found that rather strange, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that we have anything at the moment to alarm the members opposite and to

alarm the people of the province. I support the position of the Free Press, which said Manitoba is in a reasonable position; the Minister of Labour has done a reasonably good job, and that's where we should be in the marketplace today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will move, seconded by the Member for Rock Lake, that the resolution be amended by correcting the percentage figure in the second line of the first paragraph of the preamble by changing 6.4 to 6.8 percent, and striking out all the words after the word "and" in the fourth line of the first paragraph of the preamble, and substituting therefor the following words: "And whereas the increase was implemented by this government as the New Democratic Government had failed to act upon a recommendation of the Minimum Wage Board to increase the minimum wage; and whereas the Minister of Labour and Manpower indicated a commitment at the last session of the Legislature to convene the Minimum Wage Board for the purpose of reviewing the minimum wage and reporting its recommendations to the Minister; and whereas the Minimum Wage Board, in a unanimous decision, has recommended to the Minister that the minimum wage be increased to \$3.35 effective March 1, 1981 and to \$3.55 on September 1, 1981; and whereas this government has acted upon the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Board and implemented these increases; therefore be it resolved that this government be complimented on its concern for the minimum wage earners in the Province of Manitoba."

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. WILLIAM JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this may be the last time that I will take part in a debate on the minimum wage in this House, but having moved this —(Interjection)— Well, I'll tell the Honourable Minister of Labour one thing, it wasn't members of my party who pushed me out, like it is going to be the members of the constituency of Thompson that are going to push him out of the House the next time a general election is called in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I moved this resolution on two occasions. It was moved again last year by the Member for Point Douglas, and this year again I want to compliment my colleague, the Member for Churchill, on again introducing this resolution. I know my colleagues here are saying that I should compliment the government. There is a resolve in this amendment moved by the Honourable Member for Roblin that the government be complimented.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not that much of a hypocrite that I can vote for a resolution that compliments a government on the miserly increases that they have been forced over a period of time to make in the minimum wage in this province.

We are not talking about people that are organized. We are talking about people who are for the main part unorganized. The only representatives that they have to have to be able to speak on their behalf are members of this legislative assembly and first and foremost the person that should be speaking on their behalf and looking after their benefits and looking after the welfare of those people

is the Minister of Labour. He should be the first and foremost. He should be the one but he hasn't done so, just like he was on the payment of wages for people where firms went bankrupt, the same thing where the Minister of Labour was always in the background. He's a great backroom boy.

The very fact that this government will not even consider having a committee — have you every listened to the people out there that are working on the minimum wage? I happened to be listening to Peter Warren's show, which I don't listen to very often, but a few weeks or a few days ago or something like that I just forget what period of time, but there were people phoning in and the wages that they were working on. People working on the minimum wage with a family of seven and how they were trying to survive. You people over there seem to get the idea that the only people who are working at the minimum wage level are university students in the summertime, are high school students pumping gas, they don't pump gas anymore, or selling french fries and whatnot in McDonalds and places like that. You have the whole idea that's where the bulk of these people are. There are a heck of a lot of people that are working in other jobs, unorganized. In this province there are not that many people organized. The Minister of Labour knows the figures. I would imagine they wouldn't exceed 35 percent of the working force of Manitoba that is organized.

**A MEMBER:** 26.7.

**MR. JENKINS:** Well, the Minister of . . . What is he now? Government Services, no, Natural Resources. Well he has been a Minister of everything. Maybe it only points out his capabilities and abilities to handle a department because it seems nearly every session that we come in here the Minister is in a new department. He's probably made such a mess of things in the department that he was in that they have had to shift him to somewhere else. So I am not going to take the figures that the Minister of Natural Resources — that's right? — throws about with gay abandon because I don't know what criteria or what access he has to statistics. I'll take the word of the Minister of Labour. If he tells me that there is roughly between 30 to 35 percent of the people of Manitoba that are organized, I would believe him far more so than I would be inclined to believe the Minister of Natural Resources. —(Interjection)

Well, if the Minister of Labour gets his statistics from the Minister of Natural Resources then he is in very bad shape. He's in worse shape than I thought he was, Mr. Speaker.

To get back to the resolution that we have before us. The obvious reason why this government does not want to hear, and as the Member for Churchill stated . . . I don't know what size the committee would be, five people, six people, seven people, you are going to have the majority, but you don't want to hear those people. You don't want to hear those people. You don't want to hear of their plight, because I'll tell you — it's too bad the Minister of Economic Development isn't here. He is always so fond of telling us when we were in government, you had your chance but you blew it. Well you people have had your chance, Mr. Speaker. You have had your chance and you have blown it. When the next election is called in this province you are going to be

over on this side of the House, and not maybe even half of them.

The callousness that has been shown and exhibited by this government by its lack of concern for those in our society least able to take care of themselves, the people in society who have no one to speak on their behalf, as I have said before on this occasion and many other occasions, the only people that they have to speak on their behalf are you, members of this Legislative Assembly, and if you are not interested in those people to see that they get a fair share of the pie, then I say, what kind of a job . . . I don't know why you were elected here. Why were you elected here? You are all hot fired; nobody was in disagreement of a formula for yourselves to be paid. No one said a word when that was introduced. That was a dandy idea. There's a formula. It works relatively well.

I don't say that people who are elected to this Assembly should be paid the minimum wage. I think that they should be paid a decent wage, but, if we are given the rationale of the Member for Roblin — he said well people get into a job and they are in a learning process. Perhaps we should have a minimum wage for newly elected members. Is that the kind of a system that we want for legislators in this House? Is that the kind of a situation you want for the people out there?

Mr. Speaker, the studies that have been quoted, and I have read studies where it quotes both ways, that increasing the minimum wage decreases the job opportunities and I've read of just equal authorities who say the opposite. We are prone to quote statistics and especially when someone makes a quote that suits our own particular bent at that time. We all do that. We all realize that. Even the Minister of Natural Resources at times quotes people to reinforce his argument because they think the same way as he does. We all do that. But as the Member for Churchill has said, there was a minority report. Sure there was a unanimous report that something be done. In that respect, the resolution as it has been amended is correct. There was a unanimous report to do something — raise the wages, but there was also a minority report that the government consider a formula method.

The Member for Churchill has given you an out, and I have said before on more than one occasion, if you don't like that type of a formula, there's other ways. You can tie it to the cost of living index. Use a formula that the federal government uses for Old Age Security, Canada Pension, War Disability Pension. There are methods. You don't have to tie it to the composite average hourly wage of Manitoba. There are other methods that I am sure would be better than this hit and miss method that we have been engaged in, and I say to our shame, when we were government we should have done something. I freely admit it. And when you are over on this side you will probably — well I wouldn't say that because you wouldn't, because I expect the next government to do something about it, and the next government is not going to be the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba. It's going to be the New Democratic Party that will be the government of this province.

The whole issue of minimum wage . . . the Member for Roblin, if I can quote him, reinforces it. He says it's annual affair. It happens all the time.

We stand up here and we argue about the minimum wage; how we should increase it; should we increase it. We all agree in some shape or form, shortly or sometimes the long time before anything happens, but it depends on the political whim of the party in power at the time, the pressure that is put upon them. Pressures were put upon us when we were government by the business communities, the same as is put on you.

I can remember the Member for Roblin when we arguing minimum wages, he used to get up and say, I can't afford to pay the minimum wage. He couldn't afford to pay the minimum wage. —(Interjection)— Well, he couldn't afford to pay the minimum wage. That's what he said. He wasn't prepared to come in here as a learner though, Mr. Speaker. He wasn't prepared to come here and work for the minimum wage — no way. He wanted the wages that were paid here.

We have the best of all worlds here in this Legislative Assembly, because we don't negotiate with anybody, we increase our wages. We have a formula. And the last two years the government has increased their wages. The Ministers wages have been increased. I am not arguing. I think that the wages, the salaries that the Ministers were receiving were picayune, for the job that they're doing. But by the same token, Mr. Speaker, how vital are the services that we are rendering here in this House to the people of Manitoba as compared to the services that people out there on the streets and in the factories and in the other places are rendering. They are rendering a service to Manitoba and I don't think that people who are working at the minimum wage level should be there for the sole purpose of making a profit for some shoestring outfit. If that's what the minimum wage is . . . has been the political football that it has been for, God, I don't know how many years, then I think it is time that we took it out of that realm, put it into a committee, let them hear, come up with some sort of a recommendation. I am not going to condemn the Minister out of hand, but the Minister and the Minister before him had sufficient time to do something.

The Minister is fond of saying, why didn't you do it when you were in, and I say that's valid criticism, we should have done it and we wouldn't be engaged in this perpetual annual debate on what the minimum wage will be in this province. I think, as the Member for Churchill pointed out, that the chairman of the social planning committee here of Greater Winnipeg, while he said it was an increase, you know, he welcomed anything . . . if you are drowning and someone even throws you a straw to grasp at when you are going down for the third time you will grab at it. —(Interjection)— The Minister of Community Services, who should be concerned, he thinks that is a funny thing; he thinks it's funny. —(Interjection)— Well, perhaps the Minister should be putting his ear plug on. The analogy that I was trying to bring out to the Minister — well, I'm not speaking to the Minister in particular, I am speaking to the Assembly.

What I was trying to put across, and if he is too dense to understand it then I will put it plainer for him. If he was drowning and going down for the third time, regardless of what I threw him, he would grab at it. That's what the chairman of the Greater Winnipeg Planning Council would say. Sure, if you

are at that wage level, anything is better than what you had before, even if it is a nickel. I think one of their magnificent increases was a nickel, wasn't it, in the past? Five cents. A big, fat nickel. What can you buy with a nickel today? —(Interjection)— A straw. Perhaps the Member for St. Boniface is right, that proverbial straw that you are grabbing at when you go down for the third time.

Mr. Speaker, the very fact that this government . . . you know, it is set in its ways, it is set in its ways so firm that it will not accept anything. I think the other day —(Interjection)— It congratulates itself. Yes, it says, what a wonderful bunch of people they are, that they have done this wonderful thing over the past three and a half years.

Mr. Speaker, for me to be able to support this resolution, I certainly cannot adopt that hypocritical attitude that I would be prepared to stand up and congratulate this government for their compliment, for their concern for the minimum wage earners in the Province of Manitoba. Where was your concern three and a half years ago when you gave them a measly nickel? No, voting for this resolution isn't going to give the minimum wage earners of Manitoba any more money. —(Interjection)— I never said I was against raising it. I said if this resolution, with the amendment that is here, had something in it that was going to —(Interjection)— Well, the Member for Churchill certainly put something in there, that the minimum wage would be increased every three months to reflect the cost of living. You struck that all out, Mr. Speaker, but we have it here, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, please. The time is 5:30. When this subject matter next comes up, the honourable member will have one minute.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Natural Resources, that the House do now adjourn and resume in Committee of Supply at 8 o'clock.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2 o'clock tomorrow (Wednesday).